

How longer ministerial shelf-life could pep up government

Richard Ford reports on proposals that would improve departmental efficiency in Whitehall

CABINET ministers should operate through a series of directorates consisting of civil servants, MPs and outside experts as part of reform aimed at improving the quality of government and reducing the frequency of reshuffles, a report recommends today.

The reform of the traditions of Westminster and Whitehall is urged as a means of encouraging ministers to concentrate on long-term objectives, rather than short-term popularity, and bringing closer integration of the skills of civil servants, experts and politicians.

The changes would help to overcome criticism that the career of an MP provides little training for directing a large organisation employing thousands of people and provides little scope to gain expertise of complex topics or an opportunity to become knowledgeable about how a department works. Many

ministers are "toddlers rather than veterans" in the work of their departments, and subject to a high degree of turnover, in which the average cabinet minister held a departmental office for just under two and a half years between 1964 and 1991.

In some departments, according to Richard Rose, director of the Centre for the Study of Public Policy at Strathclyde University, turnover is much higher. Although turnover in the trade and industry department partly reflects structural reorganisation, there have, since 1979, been 14 cabinet ministers responsible for trade and industry.

Secretaries of state for transport, the environment and employment have also held their posts for less than two years on average, Professor Rose says in a pamphlet published today by the Institute of Economic Affairs. "Most ministers are transient



Changing faces at trade and industry 1979-91: top, left to right, Joseph, Nott, Jenkins, Biffen, Cockfield, Parkinson; bottom, left to right, Tebbit, Brittan, Channon, Young, Ridley, Lilley

passers-by in their department, here today and gone tomorrow—to a better job or political oblivion," he says. "Thus, they have strong incentives to concentrate on topics that promise short-term popularity."

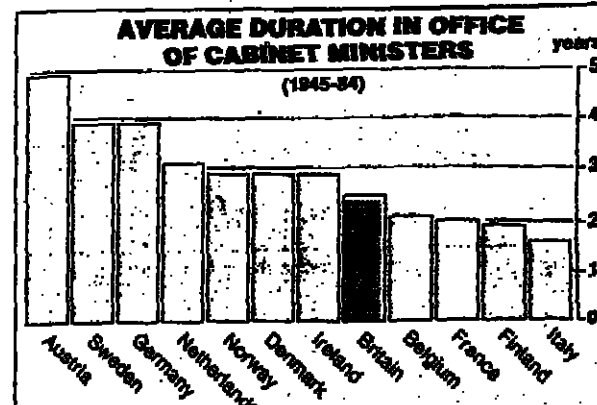
The paper, *Too Much Reshuffling of the Cabinet Pack?*, says that Britain has

more reshuffles than most governments in Europe and appoints fewer ministers with expertise in the subject matters of their department. Professor Rose says that a British minister who has spent only a few months or a year in a job is handicapped in negotiating with continental ministers. To improve

British government, Professor Rose suggests the formation of policy directorates marrying the skills of politicians in promoting and defending their departments with professionals, including civil servants and outside experts.

"Within this group, there would be individuals, usually

civil servants, overseeing broad blocks of departmental work," Professor Rose says. He recommends that each team should be about 15 strong, but would be dominated by civil servants. In Margaret Thatcher's first administration there were separate secretaries of state for trade and industry with



Source: John Birtles & Jean-Louis Thévenaz, *The Profession of Government: Ministers in Western Europe*

Sir Keith Joseph, industry secretary 1979-81, John Nott, trade secretary, 1979-81, Patrick Jenkin, industry secretary, 1981-3, John Biffen, trade secretary, 1981-2, Lord Cockfield, trade secretary, 1982-3.

After the 1983 election, the departments were amalgamated with Cecil Parkinson becoming secretary of state for trade and industry from June until October, Norman Tebbit, 1983-5, Leon Brittan, 1985-6, and Paul Channon, 1986-7.

Lord Young of Grafton

was secretary of state 1987-9 but as he was a minister in the Lords, two ministers in the Commons were also served in the cabinet with responsibility for the same area. Kenneth Clarke 1987-9 and Tony Newton 1987-9 were ministers for trade and industry. Nicholas Ridley was secretary of state 1989-90 and on his resignation after making derogatory remarks about Germany, he was succeeded by Peter Lilley.

Leading article, page 15

JULIAN HERBERT

Murder of Sinn Fein councillor raises tension in Ulster

By EDWARD GORMAN, IRISH AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

A SINN Féin councillor was murdered by the Ulster Freedom Fighters yesterday, raising the prospect of a further upsurge in sectarian violence in Northern Ireland.

Bernard O'Hagan was shot by a lone gunman as he arrived at Magherafelt College of Further Education, Co Londonderry, where he lectured in business studies.

The UFF claimed responsibility for the killing and accused Mr O'Hagan, a mem-

ber of Magherafelt council for two years, of being in the IRA and of travelling to mainland Britain recently to organise active service units. Sinn Féin rejected both claims.

Mr O'Hagan was the 59th person to be killed in sectarian violence this year. On Friday, Peter Brooke, the Northern Ireland secretary, appealed to leaders of paramilitary groups to end their campaigns.

Over the weekend, the UFF said that it was prepared to

step up its assassination campaign and gave notice that it would bring a bombing campaign to nationalist areas in response to recent IRA operations.

That statement was followed by an IRA warning that it had drawn up plans for killing key Loyalists. A statement warned Loyalist paramilitary leaders: "We reserve the right at times of our choosing to exact a high personal price from you."

Mr O'Hagan's death brings to four the number of Sinn Féin members killed this year. All were killed by the UFF. Two of them were councillors.

The killing is further evidence, according to Sinn Féin, that British intelligence is assisting Loyalist paramilitary groups in making Republican figures targets. John Hurl, a friend of Mr O'Hagan and a fellow Magherafelt councillor, accused British intelligence of being the guiding hand behind the attack. "It is now obvious that British counter-insurgency strategy has entered a new phase providing greater control, direction and information to Loyalist death squads than at any time since the early 1970s," he said.

Gerry Adams, the Sinn Féin president, again appealed for a dialogue. "Those who refuse to talk to Sinn Féin or support our exclusion from talks are directly contributing to the continuation of violence," he said.

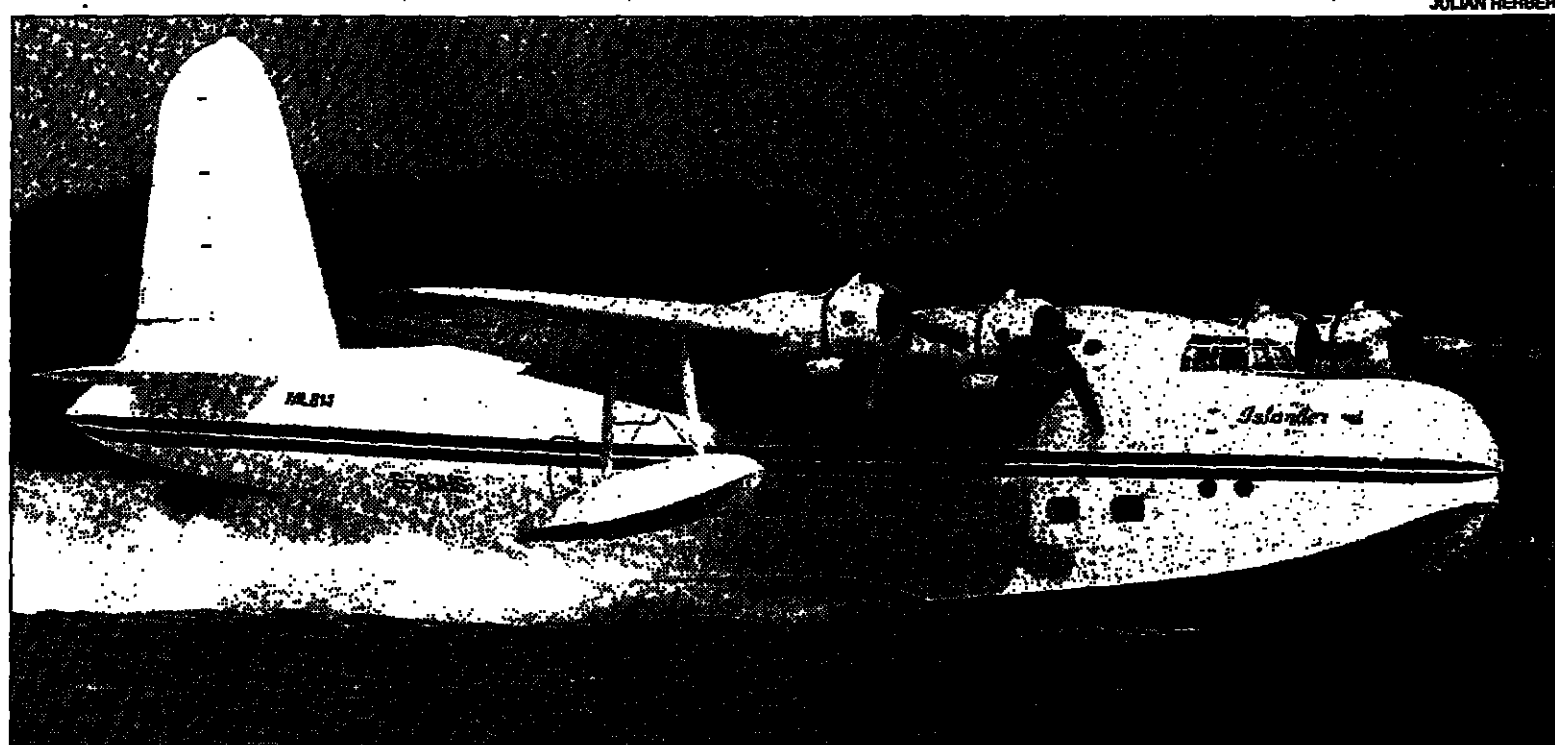
Some Unionists interpreted Mr O'Hagan's death as the inevitable consequence of the IRA's campaign of violence, which Sinn Féin supports. Sammy Wilson, spokesman for the Democratic Unionist Party, said: "The IRA and its political supporters have only themselves to blame when Loyalists retaliate."

There is speculation in Dublin that Charles Haughey, the prime minister, could face a challenge to his 11-year leadership of Fianna Fáil this autumn. Reports yesterday indicated that Albert Reynolds, finance minister, who is widely tipped as a successor to Mr Haughey, may launch a challenge within three weeks.

Mr Haughey, who celebrated his 66th birthday yesterday, is said to favour Ray MacSharry, the EC agriculture commissioner, as his eventual successor. He is reported to be determined to stay on to lead Fianna Fáil into the next election, which he does not have to call for two-and-a-half years.

MANNERS are not dead in Britain, merely near-dormant, according to a survey which finds that in spite of the march of feminism four-fifths of women, and slightly more men, still believe that men should open doors for women.

The BBC commissioned a survey of modern manners for a new Radio 4 series, *Best Behaviour*, which starts on Radio 4-FM tomorrow. A principal finding was that one in 20 girls aged 15 to 17 now thinks it reasonable for a man to expect sex on the first date. More than half, though, would



Sale star: a Sunderland flying boat, the prize lot in a Sotheby's historic aircraft sale next Tuesday, takes off for a test flight in Southampton Water

Disputed medals sold for £3,700

By SARAH JANE CHECKLAND, ART MARKET CORRESPONDENT

THREE medals said to have belonged to the newspaper's most famous war correspondent, Sir William Howard Russell, were sold at auction by Gledings on Bond Street yesterday. That *The Times* did not snap them up for its archive, was due to serious misgivings about antecedents and authenticity.

Russell was *The Times* correspondent in the Indian mutiny and the Crimean war. The newspaper's directors considered paying the £4,000 to £6,000 expected to be required to acquire the medals, but were put on their guard by a letter to the editor, Simon Jenkins, from Russell's great-grandson, Brigadier Desmond Longfield.

He said his father had found that Russell's medals had been

stolen from the Royal United Services Institute for Defence Studies, to which they had been given by Russell's widow in 1919. A 1972 letter from the institute had said: "The medals remained in our possession until January 1971 when, with other items, they were stolen."

The brigadier told the institute that the medals should be returned to it, and Raymond Layard, its assistant director, replied that Gledings would investigate.

Mr Layard said: "The medals may be part of our group, but quite frankly I do not think we can prove it."

"Objections removed, Gledings held the sale, stating that the institute's doubts were unfounded. The medals sold for £3,700 to the dealer Spink, for an overseas client.



Sold: medals said to have belonged to Russell

Things ain't what they used to be

By SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH society appears to have fostered divorce, crime, illegitimate births and heart disease over the past fifty years, according to a brief look at life then and now.

The comparison will sustain those who moan that things ain't what they used to be. Recorded crime has risen tenfold, the prison population has quadrupled and the number of divorces has multiplied 24-fold. On the other hand, Britons live longer, work fewer hours and are more likely to own their homes.

The table contrasting 26 statistics from 1938, the last normal year before the second world war, with comparable figures from 1989 was published as a 50th birthday present from the Central Statistical Office. It was set up in 1941 by Winston Churchill, who wanted clearer figures for managing the war economy.

The comparison, on a postcard inside the office's latest *Blue Book* of the nation's accounts, shows that the number of recorded crimes per 100,000 of population rose from 741 to 7,526, bringing with it a surge in the daily average prison population from 12,629 to 55,178. Deaths

Divorce is up, crime is up, so is heart disease, but people are living longer, reports Sheila Gunn

from heart disease went up from 148,000 to 207,000. The number of divorces increased from 7,039 to 164,105 and the number of births outside marriage from 45 to 266 for every 1,000 live births.

On the brighter side, life expectancy is now 72 for men and 78 for women, compared to 60 and 65 respectively in 1938, and home ownership has leapt from 32 per cent to 68 per cent. The average male manual worker takes home £229.87 a week, as against £3.55 a week in pre-war days.

The *Blue Book* on the nation's balance sheet over a decade of Thatcherism, 1980 to 1990, shows that annual consumer spending at current prices rose from £139.6 billion to £349.4 billion.

The CSO blue book 1991 edition: UK national accounts (Stationary Office £13.95)

	1938	1989
Population (millions)	47.5	57.2
Under 15	21.8%	18.9%
Over 64	8.6%	15.8%
Minimum school-leaving age	14	16
University students	68,420	383,544
Purchasing power	4p	£1
Coal consumption (m.tonnes)	180.6	107.6
Electricity generated (gigawatt hours)	24,372	286,275
Private cars (millions)	1.5	19.2
Passengers on UK scheduled airlines	0.2	21.9
Vessels in Royal Navy fleet	280	139
Land used for agriculture	81%	77%

Manners make a last stand in polite society

By ROBIN YOUNG

MANNERS are not dead in Britain, merely near-dormant, according to a survey which finds that in spite of the march of feminism four-fifths of women, and slightly more men, still believe that men should open doors for women.

The BBC commissioned a survey of modern manners for a new Radio 4 series, *Best Behaviour*, which starts on Radio 4-FM tomorrow. A principal finding was that one in 20 girls aged 15 to 17 now thinks it reasonable for a man to expect sex on the first date. More than half, though, would

still expect him to pay for the first meal.

According to Public Attitude Surveys, which carried out the poll, going to bed on the first date is still far from a social norm. Only 4 per cent of men and 2 per cent of women said they thought it was a reasonable thing for a man to expect, though the markedly higher proportion among teenage girls will cause some parental disquiet.

On most issues of etiquette, age was far more important than class or region in determining what people thought fit and proper. Almost two-thirds of the 3,685 people

questioned said they would not think it right to ask a friend how much they earned, but among teenagers two-thirds could see no difficulty. A mere 7 per cent of pensioners regarded income as a fit subject for conversation.

Three in ten teenagers thought it was quite acceptable to use four-letter words in public. Among pensioners the proportion was only three in a hundred. In the public at large the vast majority, 84 per cent, regarded swearing in public as unacceptable.

More than half of respondents said that they would have no objection to women

breast-feeding in public. Just over a third admitted it was something they would not like to see. Men (53 per cent) were more prepared than women (41 per cent) to talk frankly about sex in public.

Almost two-fifths of respondents admitted that they never wrote a thank you letter when they received a present, and two-thirds did not write to say thanks after being invited out. However, modern polite society is evidently on firmer terms with its elders and better: 94 per cent of respondents said their boss at work addressed them by their first names, and four-fifths said

that they also called their boss by his or her first name.

Best Behaviour, presented by Nigel Rees, will be drawing on the poll findings throughout its six-week run.

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LQ of 145 and Can't Remember?

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Mother and son 'in £1m supermarket blackmail plot'

By DAVID YOUNG

A POLICE trap foiled a £1 million blackmail plot against a supermarket chain, the Central Criminal Court was told yesterday.

An announcement in a newspaper's lonely hearts column from "Rebecca of Mablethorpe" was to be the signal that a plot involving threats to contaminate food had been successful, the court was told. However, the announcement appeared only after the trap had been set.

Patricia Finbow, of Euston, north-west London, and her son, Mark Finbow, of no fixed

address, deny blackmailing Sainsbury between December 31, last year, and January 15.

The court was told that Mrs Finbow, aged 51, and Mr Finbow, aged 24, had carried out the "copycat" crime after reading the trial of Rodney Whitchelo, a former detective now serving 17 years jail for a similar blackmail attempt.

The Finbows had warned the company that shoppers' lives would be put at risk if £1 million was not handed over, the court was told.

The two had hatched the plot to try to solve their

financial problems after the collapse of their office furnishing business, the jury was told.

Joanna Korner, for the prosecution, said that the first blackmail letter, signed "Wolf", had begun: "This is your first and last chance to prevent a catastrophe both to yourselves as a company and to innocent people who could be brought into this."

"We want one million pounds and total anonymity otherwise, without warning to either you or your consumers, we will contaminate food in your shops."

The letter had ended: "If you do not accept our demands, we will contaminate food and other produce from your shops which could risk the lives of innocent men, women and children and also, almost certainly ceasing your trade because you would have no way of knowing when and where and what food was being contaminated."

The blackmailers had told Sainsbury to respond by placing an advertisement in the lonely hearts column of *The Sun* newspaper, using the name "Rebecca of Mablethorpe", the court was told.

After contacting police, the company had followed the instructions in the blackmail letter and placed an announcement, which had read: "To the man in my life. You know who you are. I desperately need to telephone you about my problems. If shy, address our box number, or write to Rebecca from Mablethorpe".

Miss Korner said that in this way the blackmailers were lured into a police trap. Mark Finbow had been arrested after collecting a briefcase containing £4,000, and bundles of dummy money, from a police officer posing as a member of Sainsbury's staff, she said.

The jury was told that it was not known who had been the mastermind in the plot, but that both mother and son must have been involved. The case continues today.

Woman in vicar case 'mentally ill'

By PAUL WILKINSON

A WOMAN who claims she had a year-long affair with a Church of England vicar was probably mentally ill at the time, a psychiatrist said yesterday.

James Griffith Edwards said he believed that the woman, Barbara Edwards, was suffering a depressive illness brought on by the cot death of her son.

Professor Griffith Edwards told a Church of England consistory court that he had not examined her, but had watched her giving evidence one day last week and had read transcripts of her cross-examination. From his observations she was not fully recovered even now.

Mrs Edwards, aged 32, has claimed a year-long affair with the Rev Tom Tyler, aged 52, her parish priest in the West Sussex village of Henfield, during 1988 and 1989. Mr Tyler has denied conduct unbecoming a clerk in holy orders, saying that he had merely comforted Mrs Edwards after her child's death.

Professor Griffith Edwards, from the Bethlem and Maudsley hospitals in London, said

that Mrs Edwards's demeanour in the witness box "went beyond normal grieving". He suggested that she had sought the qualities of support and strength in Mr Tyler that she had missed when her father left the family home when she was 11.

The psychiatrist said Mrs Edwards's evidence was "so medically relevant" that he was confident that she was "very probably psychiatrically ill, mentally ill" both at the time of the alleged affair and subsequently.

He said that Mrs Edwards would be vulnerable to suggestion. "Her resistance would be low."

He suggested that under stressful questioning she would give the answers required of her. That would affect her credibility as a witness. He said that another classic symptom of severe depression was a lack of sexual appetite.

He agreed under cross-examination that it was possible for a depressed and vulnerable person to tell the truth.

The hearing continues today.



Camera call: Liza Minnelli meeting the press at the Savoy hotel before the charity premiere of *Stepping Out*, at the Empire, Leicester Square, on Thursday. In the film she plays a dance teacher whose classes also offer a course in self-discovery

Church 'loses its grip on morals'

By RUTH GLEDHILL
RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS
CORRESPONDENT

THE church's influence over people's moral decisions is declining, according to a study by a team of European academics and social researchers. The report, published yesterday, shows a waning of traditional religious orthodoxy in Great Britain over the last ten years.

According to the European Values Group, which managed the project, the next decade will see greater diversity of religious beliefs as people seek forms of spiritual leadership outside the church. The study covered 31 countries worldwide and 15,500 people in Europe. The report showed falling confidence in the church in all European countries except Northern Ireland. The UK study, based on a sample of 1,400 and conducted by Gallup, showed a rejection of organised religion but interest in religion outside the churches.

While 13 per cent of British people attended church once a week and nearly half said they never went, 54 per cent claimed to be religious and 71 per cent said they believed in God. In Northern Ireland, 46 per cent expressed great confidence in the church, compared to 16 per cent of people in the rest of Britain.

Most said the church should speak out more on Third World problems, racial discrimination and ecology but less on abortion, extra-marital affairs, suicide, euthanasia and homosexuality.

Most Britons still believed it important to hold a religious service for birth, marriage and death. More than half said they believed in heaven, and one quarter believed in hell. Nearly half believed in life after death, and one third in resurrection.

Farming decline will hit historic house funds, says Lord Montagu

By JOHN YOUNG

A DECLINE in farm incomes poses a new threat to many historic houses, parks and gardens in Britain, Lord Montagu of Beaulieu, chairman of English Heritage, said yesterday.

The agricultural recession was going to get worse, he suggested, particularly once eastern European countries were in a position to flood the market with cheap food. It was plain that large estates could no longer rely on the income from farm rents as they had in the past.

The prospect could mean that owners of country houses would again have to sell pictures and furniture to pay for repairs and maintenance.

English Heritage would help where it could, but its resources were increasingly stretched in providing grants for historic towns and ancient monuments, funding rescue archaeology, maintaining its own properties and, most recently, grant-aiding repairs to cathedrals. Grants would continue to be available to those private owners in the greatest need.

Changes in rural areas offered both threats and opportunities, and the concerns of conservationists

should be understood by those, like the agriculture ministry, who were shaping policies for the future, Lord Montagu said. Set-aside payments to farmers to leave land fallow, and selling off land for leisure developments like golf courses, could have serious effects on historic landscapes.

During a boom in the economy the main pressure on the heritage came from developers. "But in a recession the threat is of a very different kind, what I call the vandalism of neglect."

The recession in agriculture was not yet as severe as in the 1930s, and most country houses were in very much better shape than at the end of the last war. Tourism was well established, and in many cases golf courses and other developments might be quite acceptable.

The best use for any building was that for which it was originally intended, he said. But, failing that, English Heritage would certainly encourage sympathetic and appropriate new uses. Many country house hotels, for example, had proved extremely successful.

Lord Montagu, who was

appointed the organisation's first chairman in 1983, was presenting his final annual report before his retirement next April. During the past seven years membership of English Heritage had grown from nothing to some 275,000. It employed some 1,600 permanent staff and was responsible for about 400 historic properties in the nation's care. Income from ad-

missions, sales and memberships contributed more than £9 million to last year's expenditure of just over £90 million.

Jocelyn Stevens, Lord Montagu's successor, described English Heritage as the most important government agency in Britain. There was so much to do, and much of it was so urgent, he said. Every day the dangers were increasing.

Defect in vision may cause dyslexia

By NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

DYSLEXIA, the difficulty some people have in reading, may be caused by an abnormality in the way their visual systems are constructed. The results of American research could help to provide a way of diagnosing dyslexia in infancy and offering treatment early enough to be effective.

One of the authors of the study, Albert Galaburda, director of the Dyslexia Neuroanatomical Laboratory at Beth Israel hospital in Boston, says that in the past most experts viewed dyslexia as a verbal problem and the role of vision was ignored.

That has changed, he says, because of recent discoveries that visual signals in humans pass along two major pathways, the so-called magnocellular system, responsible for seeing motion, perceiving depth and seeing things in low contrast, and the parvocellular system, which uses smaller cells to carry out slower visual processes such as colour perception and the observation of stationary images.

In a study published in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, a difference was discovered between the abilities of dyslexics and normal readers when shown a rapidly changing image of a chessboard pattern containing 36 squares, in which the squares were reversed at differing speeds.

The researchers measured the electrical signals from the brain triggered by watching the patterns and found that while there was no difference between the two groups under high contrast, the dyslexics showed a slower rate of response under low contrast, when the magnocellular system should have been responding.

Dr Galaburda then compared the brain structures of five dyslexics and five non-dyslexics in post-mortem examinations. He found that the brains of dyslexics had both smaller and apparently more disorganised magnocellular systems. The team believes this is the first time that an anatomical difference has been found between dyslexics and normal readers.

Concern at return of island children

By KERRY GILL

A SOCIAL worker yesterday said that he was still concerned that the nine Orkney children, seized from their homes after allegations of sexual abuse in February, had been returned to their families after the intervention of a sheriff.

Charles Fraser, giving evidence to the judicial enquiry before Lord Clyde in Kirkwall, said nothing had occurred since to make him change his mind. Mr Fraser was one of the social workers involved in taking the children from the island of South Ronaldsay into care.

However, under cross-examination, he agreed that police had reported finding little evidence to back the allegations, made by three children aged seven, eight and nine from another family, who were already held in care. The allegations, the enquiry has heard, claimed that the nine children were involved in ritual sex abuse with parents and the Rev Morris McKenzie, the minister on South Ronaldsay.

Mr Fraser, aged 54, said he had been shocked to hear of the allegations. "It is difficult to describe how I felt, horror, pity," he said. But after reading a second report he felt there must be some truth in the allegations. Asked by Graham Bell, QC, for the police,

whether it would have been proper to ignore the statements and if there was any option but to seek safety orders, Mr Fraser replied no.

He agreed with Nigel Morrison, QC, representing two of the four families, that a police officer had reported back saying that they had not found much to back up the disclosures. Mr Fraser said the allegations had been described to him as straightforward sexual abuse and not as Satanism or demonic practices referred to in the media. He said he could not recall a police report which referred to "ritual" sexual abuse.

Lynn Drever, another social worker, told the enquiry how she had been involved with the W family. The three children who made the allegations were from this family. There was a history of sexual abuse within the family and the father had been jailed for sexually abusing his children. She said the mother had indicated an incestuous relationship with two daughters.

Miss Drever said she understood the subsequent action to remove the other nine children was a police led operation. She thought the police were going to charge the parents, not simply detain them.

The enquiry continues today.

Radley becomes a school for Europe

By DAVID TYTLER
EDUCATION EDITOR

RADLEY College, a prime example of the traditional English public school, is to go bilingual. Richard Morgan, who took up his post as warden (headmaster) of the Oxfordshire boarding school only two weeks ago, sees Radley as the first European public school.

"Anybody visiting Radley will hear French spoken as much as English throughout the school," Mr Morgan said yesterday. As many lessons as possible will be taught in French and he expects the school to be fully bilingual, inside and outside the classroom, by 1994. He also hopes to forge stronger links with continental schools.

Mr Morgan said that he believed Radley would lead the way for all English public schools to return to their original purpose of educating people to work abroad.

"This time we will not be training them to run the empire but to work in

Europe and the wider world," he said. "We should not be just concentrating on turning out 18-year-old boys with qualifications, but splendid 20 and 30-year-old adults. Radleians will be true Europeans in the first European public school."

The scheme has met with little resistance from the 610 pupils at the £10,350-a-year school. "Radleians are very competent," said Mr Morgan, who confesses to having little French. "But if the rest of the common room are anything like me they are going to find it much more difficult than the boys."

Mr Morgan will join most of the 70 or so teaching staff on crash language courses to keep up with the boys so that staff and pupils are bilingual. "We will have to provide training for the staff."

French will be the main language but Mr Morgan also hopes to introduce German and Spanish. He sees no difficulty in lessons in the arts and humanities being taught jointly in

English and French but accepts that there may be difficulties in subjects such as mathematics and physics.

"We are going to have to rely on English for the technical subjects," he said. And for the rowing coaching, too, it seems. The college, founded in 1847, is very proud of its rowing tradition and has appointed Jean Le Manach to be "the gallic motivator" for the first rowing eight, but he has a little trouble with the language.

M Le Manach and Mr Morgan have been walking the towpath during training this weekend but have reluctantly concluded that French could not be used during coaching sessions.

"There are some phrases that even a French oarsman cannot manage," said Mr Morgan. "Jean could not, for example, find a suitable translation for 'be strong on the catch'. (Meaning to put all the oars into the water at the same time as cleanly and strongly as possible.)"

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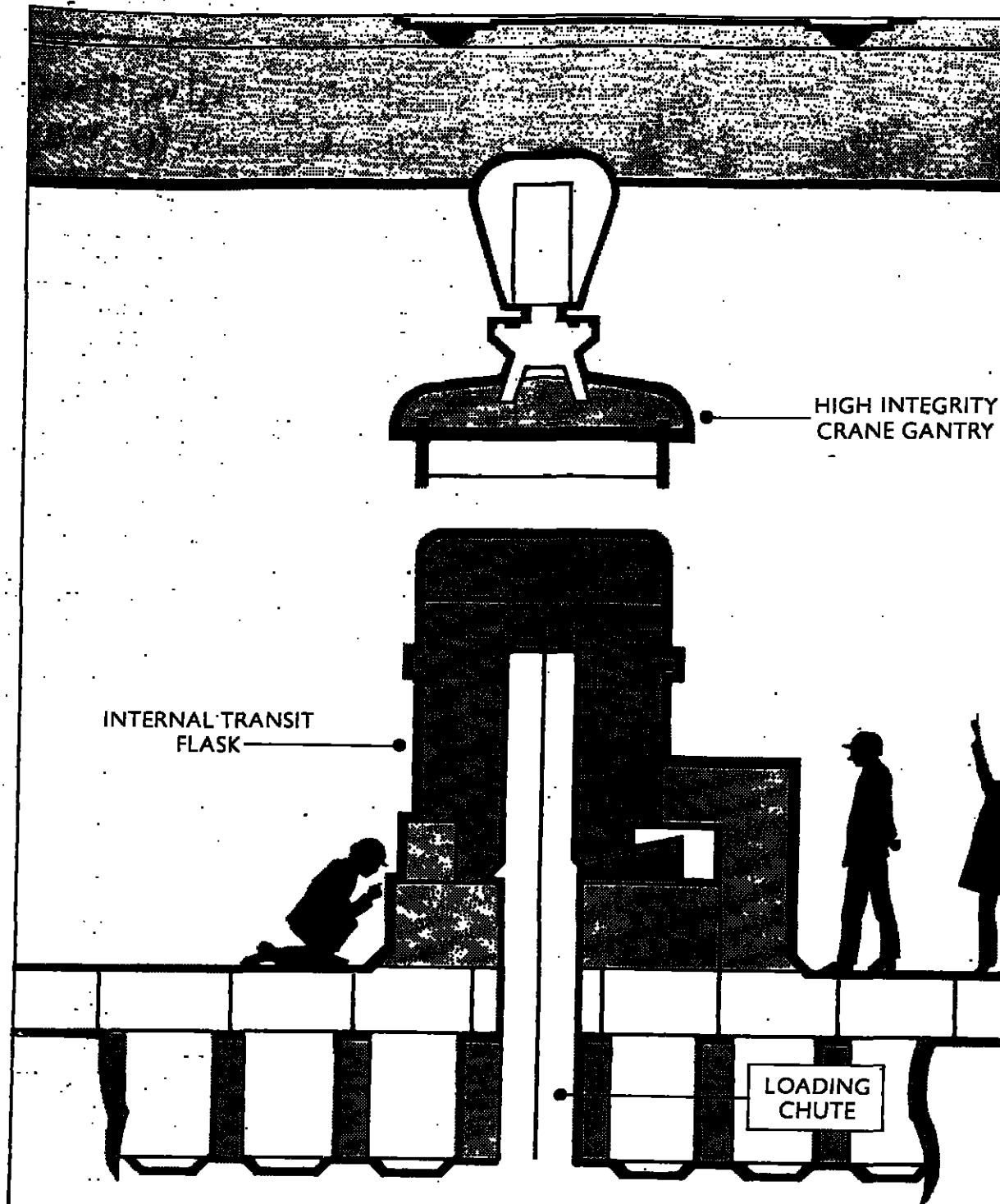
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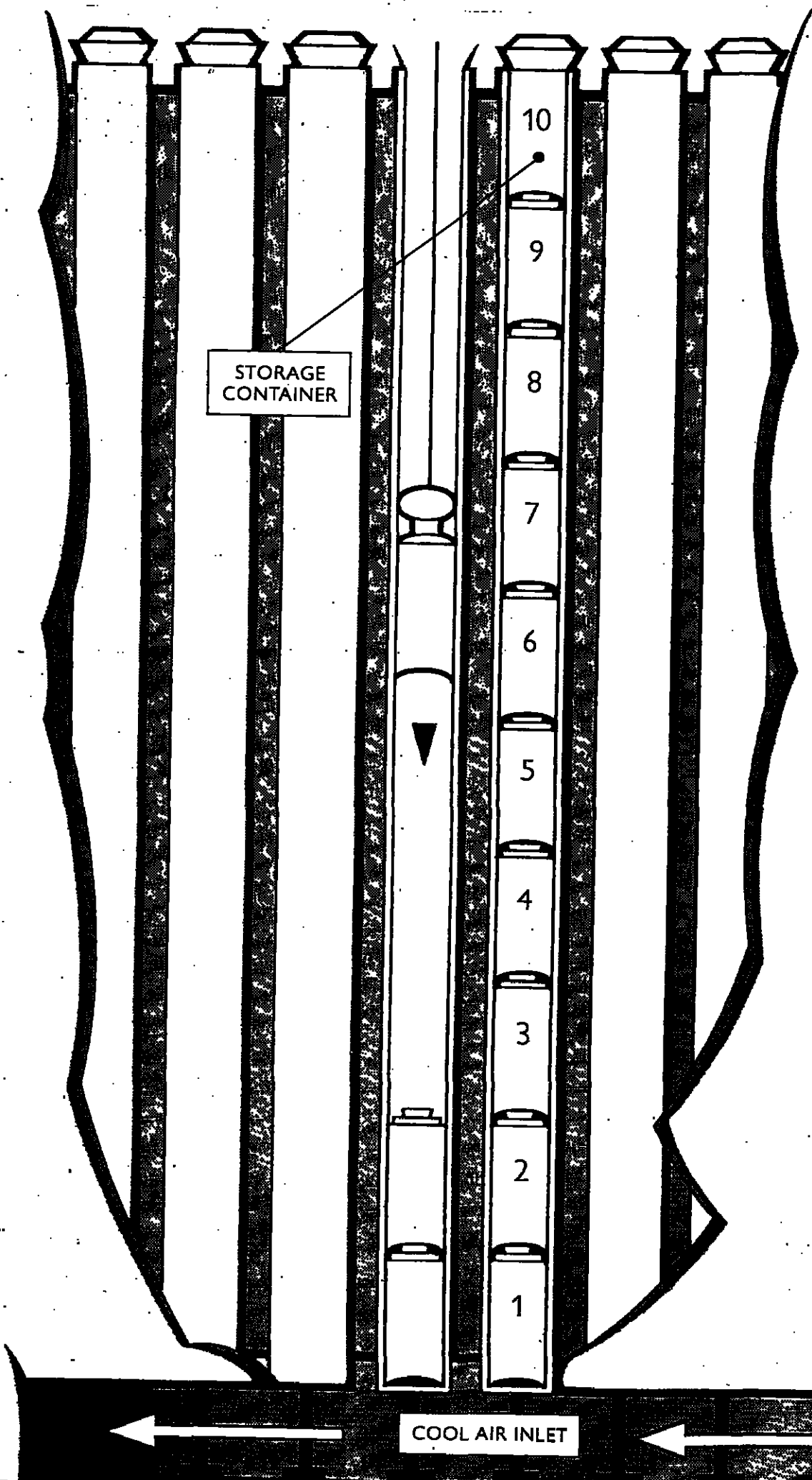
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
WILLI
ON CREDIT

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

The shortlisted books are *The Gospel in a Pluralist Society* by Lesslie Newbigin; *Evangelism through the Parish Church*, Michael Green; *Jesus Christ in Modern Thought*, John Macquarrie; *Divine Action*, Keith Ward; *Michael Ramsey, A Life*, Owen Chadwick; and *Good Friday People*, Sheila Cassidy.

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

Ron Chopping, managing director of Harper Collins Religious, said: "They were all chosen by a senior churchman who has been involved in the publishing world and reviewing books for many years. We are quite happy with that."



Furlong: books on shortlist bland and lacking appeal

By MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

The council says that more than five million people take part in country sports, supporting 100,000 jobs and

injecting about £1 billion a year into the rural economy. It also argues that the management of landscape to preserve habitats for game is playing a crucial role in the conservation of traditional

nounds. Michael Colvin, Tory MP for Romsey and Waterside, and chairman of the Council for Country Sports, which represents 52 field sports groups, said: "We want to make clear that we will put up powerful and

Sir Nicholas Bonsor, chairman of the British Field Sports Society, said: "We estimate that 70 per cent of the new woods being planted on farms are for game



Takeoff: a golden eagle and her handler Emma Ford at the launch yesterday of the field sports campaign

British Coal has backed down over threats to dock the pay of 66 miners at the Thurcroft colliery, near Rotherham, who went home after an accident involving a runaway conveyor belt.

Managers initially refused to pay miners who went home shocked and shaken after receiving medical attention following the September 3 accident. However, members of the National Union of Mineworkers have voted to accept a revised offer of pay for six hours' work instead of the usual seven. The offer came after the union asked British Coal to treat the case as a "one off".

Human remains washed up at Minnis Bay, Margate, Kent, have been identified from dental records as those of Alan Nicholson, skipper of the Ocean Hound fishing boat which sank in the Channel a month ago with the loss of five lives.

Andrew Jones, aged 28, of Sutton in Ashfield, Nottinghamshire, was remanded in custody for seven days yesterday, charged with the murder of Laura Smith, aged two and her sister Emma, aged three. The girls died in a house fire in Sutton at the weekend.

A pit bull terrier that attacked three people in Bristol city centre has been stolen from a police compound. Magistrates are considering a police request for its destruction.

A Metropolitan police officer was accused yesterday of giving a false name after being arrested for allegedly shoplifting in London's Oxford Street. Julian Robert Cousins, aged 26, was remanded on bail by Horseferry Road court.

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WHITE PAPER

Baker maps the route to stamping out jail unrest

By QUENTIN COWDRY
HOME AFFAIRS
CORRESPONDENT

A SWEEPING programme of prison reform headed by ministers as unprecedented was unveiled by the Home Office yesterday in a white paper outlining the government's response to last year's jail riots.

All but six of the 204 recommendations made by Lord Justice Woolf in his analysis of what caused the violence have been accepted, although the government's acceptance of a critical recommendation on overcrowding is highly guarded. Describing the proposals as the most radical of their kind, Kenneth Baker, the home secretary, predicted that they would transform the beleaguered prison network in England and Wales.

As expected, the white paper accepts Lord Justice Woolf's main thesis, that the elements of security, control and justice in jails need to be better balanced. It also fully endorses, with one exception, his key recommendations, including the creation of community prisons, a code of jail standards and better, clearly "ringfenced" conditions for remand inmates.

To the concern of penal reformers, however, the document sets no deadlines for

TIMETABLE OF REFORMS

Key time-tabled reforms set out in the white paper
November 1991: jail security audits start; emergency planning manuals installed in all prisons
December: inaugural meeting of criminal justice consultative council; launch of new therapy programme for sex offenders; all staff to wear name badges
March 1992: statement of treatment for remand inmates;

mail at all prisons holding maximum-security inmates.

Under the action diary, drawn up hurriedly over the past six weeks, security at the 124 prison department establishments will be overhauled, with new security and emergency planning manuals supplied to every jail. Officials also plan to carry out "security audits" on most jails each year, to extend the use of electronically-operated gates in prison living units, and to examine "firebreaks" in jails to prevent disturbances spreading.

Other firm commitments for the next few years are the introduction of further delegated responsibilities for governors, a pilot scheme for a code of standards, the appointment of an ombudsman or "adjudicator" to act as a final point of appeal in inmate disciplinary and complaints cases, and the creation of a "criminal justice consultative council".

The idea of a council, eventually to be linked to a nationwide network of local consultative bodies, stems from Lord Justice Woolf's criticism that the main elements in the criminal justice system — the police, courts, the probation service, the Crown Prosecution Service and various government departments — do not liaise sufficiently.

The committees, to be launched in December, will aim to promote better co-ordination within the system. Lord Justice Farguherson, an appeal court judge, and Joe Pilling, the prison service's director, have agreed to join. Changes scheduled for the next few years, including the substantial drive to enhance security, will be funded out of present budgets. On the financing of the other, longer-term reforms, Mr Baker said: "The pace of progress will depend on the outcome of each year's public expenditure survey."

The white paper backs the idea of community jails, on the grounds that locating inmates closer to their homes reduces tension in prisons and the chances of reoffending on completion of sentence. Officials foresee each main population area being served by a "cluster" of jails, allowing

health care standards for local jails and remand centres. April: pilot scheme for code of standards; new disciplinary arrangements begin; opening of first privately-run jail. May: first "compact" between home secretary and prisons director published. December: complaints adjudicator appointed. December 1994: slopping out ends.

prisoners of widely varying security classifications to be held near to their homes.

As an experiment, several large "local jails" such as Leeds are to be converted into "multi-functional prisons", offering a range of regimes. At present, most prisoners are only held near to their families in the first few months of incarceration.

Also supported is the call for the Home Office to establish uniform national standards for jails covering basic services to be provided to inmates, such as meals, clothing and hygiene.

The one main exception to the endorsement of the Woolf

report, published in February, concerns the judge's conclusion that the best way of eliminating jail overcrowding — the curse of the system for many years — is by forcing ministers to inform parliament each time a jail exceeds its official limit. Mr Baker simply promised that the recommendation would be considered when the prison population came in line with jail capacity, predicted for 1993.

Ministers see the white paper as paving the way for attitudinal change in prisons, the first objective of providing more staff and cell places having largely been achieved. Since 1979 more than £1 billion has been spent on building new prisons, while over the same period, the number of prison officers has risen by over 7,400, or 53 per cent.

There is now one officer to just over two prisoners. In 1980 the ratio was 1:3 and in 1990 1:6.

Kenneth Baker, page 14
Leading article, page 15
Law Times, page 29



Penal progress: Kenneth Baker outlining the government's plans yesterday

REACTION

Reformers criticise timetable for change

THE lack of a firm timescale for introducing key recommendations in the Woolf report was criticised by penal reformers and Opposition MPs, but there was almost unanimous support for the white paper's overall strategy (Quentin Cowdry writes).

The National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders described the document as "strong on promises of reform, but weak on timetabled commitments". Although impressive in scope and general thrust, it lacked the urgency appropriate for a network that last year had suffered the worst prison riots this century, Vivien Stern, the association's director, said.

The Prison Reform Trust regretted vagueness over how changes would be funded.

Lord Justice Woolf, whose study of jail disorder underpins the paper, issued a statement saying: "When the proposals as a whole are implemented, they should result in a radical and much needed improvement in the effectiveness of the prison system."

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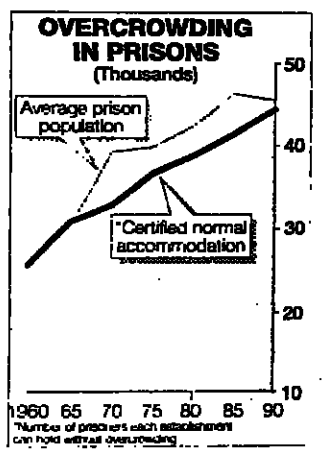
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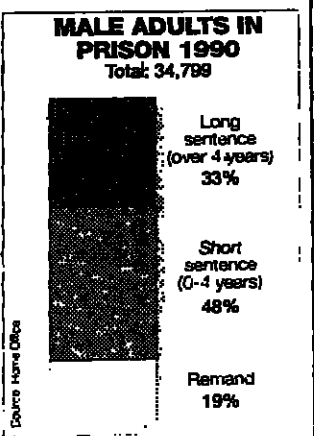
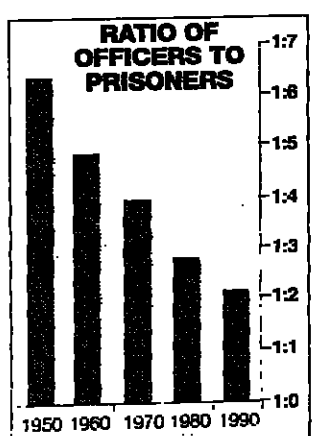
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when the community jails or code of standards should be introduced, and gives a warning that the process will take many years. Its statement that funding of the reforms would partly depend on the effectiveness with which the prison service uses present budgets also caused anxiety.

In spite of the vagueness of the timetable for the most radical changes, the white paper is substantially less insipid than some observers forecast. About a dozen of the Woolf recommendations will be introduced over the next three years under an "action diary" and £16 million will be spent before April on upgrading jail security, £3 million of which will go on installing x-ray machines to examine in-coming goods and



CHAPLAINS' ROLE

Clergy urged to be agents for change

By PETER DAVENPORT

THE Strangeways riot began at a Sunday church service, so it seemed appropriate yesterday that the white paper on penal reform should be published on the day that prison chaplains met in conference.

More than 200 Church of England, Methodist and Roman Catholic chaplains were told by the Ven Keith Pound, the chaplain-general, that they had an opportunity to exert an influence for change far greater than their numbers would suggest.

To help them, Mr Pound delivered a 12-point plan. It included advice that they work closely with boards of visitors, keep their bishops informed of the realities of prison life and raise a wide range of issues with governors. Chaplains have the right of direct access to governors on any issue linked to the spiritual health of the prison. "That covers anything from bang-up to bath time, from cornflakes to cockroaches; there's a beginning of an ABC of spiritual help, and when you get to S, then

slopping out is one of the most significant spiritual issues around," Mr Pound said.

Before the conference opened, he welcomed the white paper as offering an unprecedented opportunity for reform. "It is not just that practical recommendations are made, the most exciting thing is the change of attitudes it encourages," he said.

"My only reservations are about how long the proposals will take to implement, and whether there is enough impetus. If initiatives don't lead somewhere, it can increase cynicism. But I think there is a sufficient steam behind this to make a difference."

The conference, in Leeds, West Yorkshire, will today be addressed by Judge Tumim, chief inspector of prisons.

A study calling for the penal system to put greater emphasis on reparation, forgiveness and community service is to be published in Edinburgh on Thursday (Ruth Gledhill writes). It was sponsored by the centre for theology and public issues at Edinburgh University.

Debt-ridden students may be forced to drop courses

By JOHN O'LEARY, HIGHER EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

STUDENTS have run up such debts over the summer that many are considering giving up their courses, citizens' advice bureaux report today. Claims of widespread hardship among students disqualify from welfare benefits and experiencing a lack of holiday work have been dismissed by the government. The only concession made to student organisations and opposition parties has been the early

release of £270,000 intended to soften the effect of a decline in the value of grants.

Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary, said in response to Labour demands for restoration of vacation hardship allowances: "I believe that the financial difficulties that a few students always seem to get themselves into are being used as a campaign giving a false impression of widespread hardship. The truth is that the introduction of student loans this year has given students more money for their living costs."

A report by the National Association of Citizens' Advice Bureaux, however, says that students have suffered hardship and distress over the summer. Older students and those from low-income families have been hit hardest.

The association compiled the report because of the number of students seeking help from bureaux. "Lack of benefits, the shortage of jobs and the inadequacy of the loans system combine to leave many students with no money and, in some cases, nowhere to live," the authors said.

Peter Hildrew, the association's assistant director, said: "The difficulties faced by low-income families might undermine equality of access to higher education and reduce the pool of skilled and educated workers."

The bureaux say that about one in ten students they have dealt with, especially mature students, is considering leaving courses to make ends meet. The report, *Diminishing Options*, says that withdrawal of welfare benefits, which coincided with the introduction of student loans, is particularly unfair to mature students who have paid the National Insurance contributions to qualify. It calls for the loans to be discounted as notional income for benefit purposes.

Job fight victory for butler

A WEALTHY financier yesterday lost his attempt to overturn an industrial tribunal ruling that his butler and housekeeper had been unfairly dismissed.

George Soros, head of the investment company Quantum Fund, was refused permission by a London tribunal for a review of its decision made in May in favour of Patrick Davison, aged 41, the butler, and his wife Nicki, aged 43, a housekeeper.

At the earlier hearing, the tribunal was told that the couple were dismissed after a dispute with a newly appointed cordon bleu chef, Mr Davison, of Hull, Humberside, had said that the argument was over the chef's use of a £500 wine in a goulash.

Peter Wallington, Mr Soros's barrister, said that the Davisons had exaggerated their story and had courted publicity. He said that the Soros, of Knightsbridge, west London, did not possess any wine valued at £500. He appealed for a review of the decision in the light of that evidence.

A further hearing will determine compensation.



Farmyard revolution: Brian Marhan, left, a dairy farmer at Henneock, Devon, instructs Prancišius Pranaitis, a Lithuanian agriculture lecturer, in how to work a high-pressure spray. Mr Pranaitis was among a group of 15 Lithuanian farmers invited by the National Farmers' Union to the West Country to learn about British farming.

Japanese borrow British ingenuity

By KEVIN EASON, MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

JAPANESE engineers with research budgets of billions of pounds have been out-thought by employees at their company's British car plant.

Workers at Nissan's factory at Washington, Tyne and Wear, have increased productivity by up to 33 per cent on part of the assembly line by devising a simple trolley to reduce the time spent moving components from factory floor storage racks to the assembly line.

Nissan was so impressed that within weeks its factories in Japan, the United States and Mexico were also using the system. The idea is one of hundreds from workers at the Washington factory that will help it to produce 120,000 cars this year, outstripping Nissan's estimate that it would have a maximum annual output of 108,000 cars. Workers receive no financial rewards for their ideas.

Ian Gibson, managing

director, said: "What has amazed us has been the number of ideas from people on the assembly lines. Some are improvements that an engineer would never think of."

The idea that had the biggest impact was that to introduce the giant "trolleys". Car assembly lines traditionally have big racks near by holding thousands of components. Workers walk to the racks, take a box containing the part they need, unpack it

and fit it to the passing car. One worker was found to walk more than four miles a week and to waste valuable time unpacking items.

Frank Charlton, the materials handling manager, and his staff came up with a mobile rack which can be moved close to the assembly line. Its sloping shelves deliver the previously unpacked component into the workers' hands.

Nissan jobs boost, page 21

SNP struggles to bolster its flagging support

The Scottish National Party is in poor shape on the eve of its annual conference, reports Kerry Gill

THE Scottish National Party begins its annual conference tomorrow, beset by internal disillusionment and falling public support. The nationalists are trailing behind Labour and the Conservatives, with just 18 per cent of the popular vote at best.

When they gather in Inverness, the nationalists will need to show the public that support is about to increase. A year ago the party could point to a 22 per cent share in the polls with the expectancy of that rising. Members were keen to take on Labour at the by-elections in Paisley North and Paisley South, hopeful of repeating their 1988 success at Govan. They came second in both seats.

Last night saw the emergence of a new voice in the campaign to bolster support.

The unmistakable gravelly tones of Sean Connery rallied waverers to the standard of Scottish independence in a party political broadcast.

So confident were party activists that the actor's endorsement would have the desired effect, they manned telephones in expectation of a deluge of callers promising their support. Obviously they felt that Mr Connery can do what Alex Salmond, the party leader, has failed to achieve. Since he took over last year the party's position has continued to slide.

Mr Salmond, MP for Banff and Buchan, was expected to adopt a presidential style after the collective approach of his predecessor Gordon Wilson. Mr Salmond's leadership has been quietly criticised within the party throughout the year. Early hopes that he would raise public support to 30 per cent have disappeared and the nationalists' popularity has fallen as low as 16 per cent.

Yesterday Jim Sillars, SNP MP for Govan, published the second of his arguments for independence when he at-

tacked the notion of a constitutional convention established to introduce a Scottish parliament within the United Kingdom. Mr Sillars argued that devolution promised by Labour and the Liberal Democrats was riddled with fraudulent claims. He has the highest public profile within the party and is expected to defeat Alasdair Morgan, the deputy leader, when he makes his challenge later in the week.

The campaign has hardly rattled the Tories, although they are barely seven points ahead of the SNP. Ian Lang, the Scottish secretary, said that the resurgence of the Tories in Scotland had consigned the SNP to third place. Its policy of independence in Europe was a bogus philosophy at odds with its own constitution.

"As well as abandoning sovereign independence for Scotland as an objective, in favour of independence in Europe, the SNP has abandoned all pretence that it is a party which appeals to voters right across the political spectrum," Mr Lang said.

Mr Sillars has attempted to steer the party away from blaming Scotland's problems on England. "What happens to Scotland, to our economy, our society and our way of life is entirely our responsibility. The choice is stark to continue to be an inward-looking, parochial, ginning region of the European Community or reach for European statehood, internationalist involvement and the responsibility of shaping our own future," he said.

While the nationalists cite the examples of the Baltic states, however, there are no popular demonstrations for independence in the streets of Edinburgh, Glasgow and Aberdeen. Their contention that up to 38 per cent of the electorate backs independence has yet to be demonstrated by any of the established polls.

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A colony votes for freedom

Martin Lee says that Hong Kong needs democracy at once

The people of Hong Kong have spoken with an unmistakably clear voice: we want democracy. The British government is now at a turning point. Is it prepared to respect the wishes of the people of Hong Kong, or will it try to frustrate our aspirations?

In Sunday's first-ever democratic elections — for 18 of the 60 seats in the legislative council — pro-democracy candidates won an overwhelming victory. The United Democrats of Hong Kong won 12 of the 14 seats we contested, and other pro-democracy candidates won a majority of the remaining six seats. The support of the people of Hong Kong for democracy could not be clearer.

In making appointments to the ten executive council seats and the remaining 17 seats on the legislative council, the British government should respect the result of these elections and match the proportion of seats won by the political groups. Only by appointing individuals who represent the public can the British government ensure that the colonial administration retains public credibility and accountability — two qualities that the current administration lacks. The British must choose between "government of, by and for the people" and government against the people.

Historically, in every major former colony, the British government brought into the executive the party that won the first democratic election. This gave credibility to the sunset colonial governments, and gave the people a vital chance to begin to rule themselves. Hong Kong should be no exception. The 1984 Sino-British Joint Declaration allows for Hong Kong people to rule Hong Kong with considerable autonomy.

In 1984, the British government explicitly promised democracy to Hong Kong in order to persuade us to accept the Joint Declaration and the 1997 handover. Richard Luce, the minister with special responsibility for Hong Kong, ended the parliamentary debate on December 5, 1984, with a promise: "We all fully accept that we should build up a firmly-based democratic administration in Hong Kong in the years between now and 1997." In the wake of a successful first democratic election, Britain can no longer back away from this promise. In line with the election results, the democrats should occupy a majority of the ten Executive Council seats, and the administration should consider allowing the four *ex officio* colonial civil servants attend meetings only in a non-voting capacity. Likewise, in selecting the 17 appointed members of the legislative council, the colonial governor should reflect the democratic election results.

The British government must urgently change its current policy, in which the Foreign Office makes good Sino-British relations paramount and concentrates on stifling challenges to the colonial administration, rather than establishing durable, long-term democratic institutions. While there is certainly a risk that Peking would dismantle a democratic system after 1997, it would at least embarrass China to have to do so.

As democracy sweeps the world, it would be short-sighted and hypocritical of Britain to continue to deny us democratic government. The people of Hong Kong have at last been given some say over their future. Will the British government accept our verdict, or will it appeal to the judges in Peking?

The author is leader of the United Democrats.

Janet Daley says English courtesy disguises an elusive code which perpetuates a system of snobbery

What are manners really for?



Public school brute: Billy Bunter demonstrates that the English middle classes can behave as badly as anyone

must be disguised by the straightforward question "Are manners important?" There seems to be little disagreement about whether polite behaviour is a good thing, but people differ in deciding what it is. Even such mundane rules of courtesy as saying "please" and "thank you" or paying compliments to a host are riddled with danger for those

that it is witty and encoded, is more acceptable among the upper and upper-middle classes than among the middle, middle and lower middle, but comments on one's person (even, favourable ones) are not.

In *Emma*, Jane Austen has a character apologise for paying a compliment: "I don't mean to be rude, Miss Woodhouse, but you are looking very pretty this evening." The rule may have been relaxed a bit by now, but in higher circles, it is still thought ill-bred to make any comment on a person's appearance or possessions, presumably because it implies the passing of a patronising judgment.

That the British all regard rules of behaviour as indispensable, yet have such mutually contradictory ideas about what they are, has to be one of the cruelest ironies of national life. The possibilities for misunderstanding and recrimination are almost limitless, but still worse is the scope for intimidation. Fearing that one will not know how to behave in an acceptable way in any circle other than that in which one grew up, many people in deference and inertia

This fate is all the more bitter for seeming to be based on something so arbitrary and pointless.

Bad enough to be poor or ill educated. But those misfortunes may be borne with dignity. To be thought an "oik" or a boor because one has no model for the standard of smooth self-effacement expected by one's betters is a fatal humiliation.

Although the survey shows some sharp differences between generations — the over-sixties being predictably more conservative in their views than teenagers — no group in the survey is indifferent. No one, in other words, sees (or will admit to seeing) the idea of manners as pure eyewash.

The supposed permissive revolution, seems to have changed our ideas about "decency" rather than pundits have tended to assume. In the 1960s, hypocrisy was thought to be the greatest of social evils. Old-fashioned manners were dismissed as being about form rather than content. What was overlooked was that form is precisely what is needed to make people treat one another tolerably well even when they feel no particular warmth for each other.

What a pity that this consensus about the importance of form — for what do manners amount to but the formalising of such virtues as kindness and consideration — should not be more of a guiding force in the land. Instead there are separate sets of rules for different camps, which eye one another warily across a vast gulf.

Teach them a lesson behind bars

Kenneth Baker, the Home Secretary, spells out his proposals for giving new purpose to life in Britain's prisons

The White Paper on the prison service offers an ambitious, challenging and far-reaching set of reforms. I am determined to improve the prison service's performance in the three key areas of custody, care and justice. There will be better security and control of prisoners, and measures to deter prison disturbances. There will be more purposeful and useful regimes, making prisoners work towards the cost of their upkeep. And there will be a more constructive relationship between prisoners and staff, so that trouble can be averted.

The public expects prisons to be first and foremost custodial institutions. Prisons exist to punish wrongdoers by depriving the guilty of their liberty. Prisons also exist to protect society from the danger posed by those guilty of serious crime. But prisons must also seek to reform their inmates, so that the chances of them re-offending are minimised.

Prisons should be austere but decent places which do not turn out men and women worse than when they entered. That is why I am speeding up the end of slopping out, a degrading practice we have tolerated for too long. This will now end by December 1994. I also want to establish regimes which demand from inmates a real effort to spend their time usefully and constructively at work or in education or training.

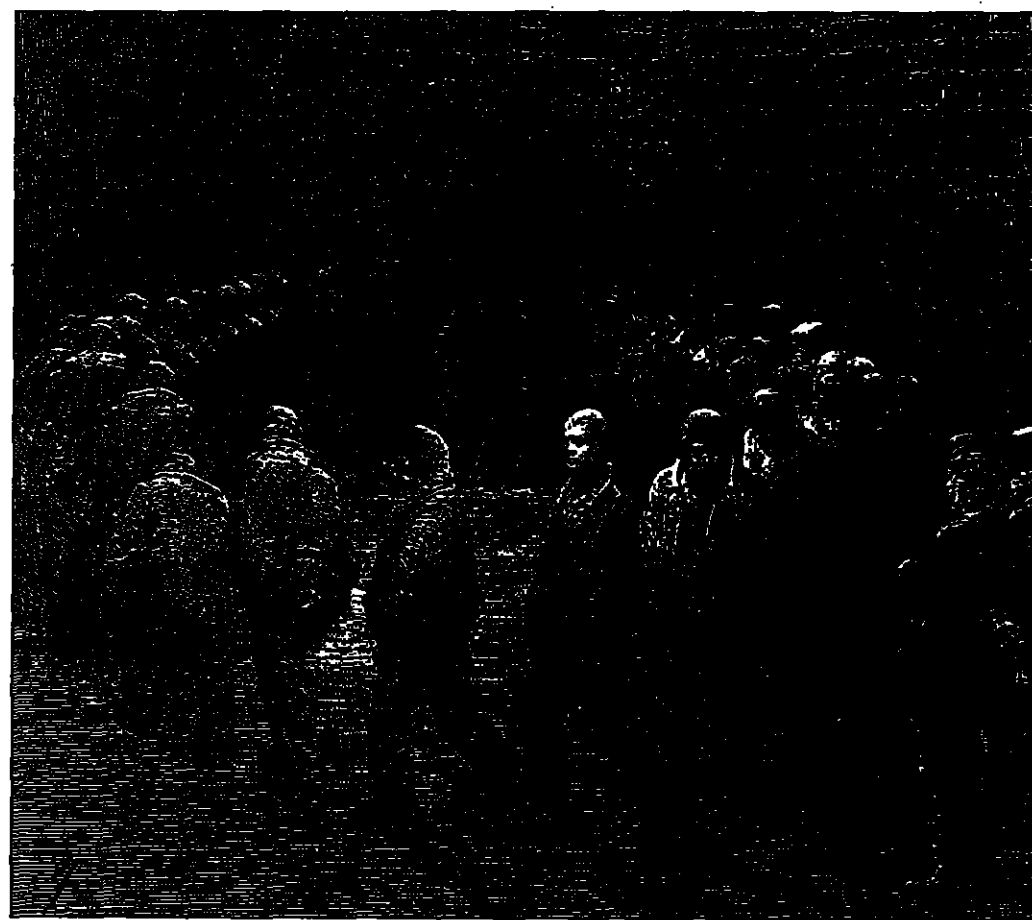
It was fashionable in the 1960s and 1970s to denigrate the role of prison regimes in preventing people offending again. Since imprisonment could not reliably

"cure" every criminal, there was, it was said, no point in trying to do anything for prisoners. This sense of hopelessness sapped energy and dampened initiative. I am convinced that this dead-end, do-nothing approach is wrong. Prison must be a place that offers an opportunity for a new beginning. It must provide prisoners and staff with a sense of purpose and worth.

This will require a careful and radical development of prison regimes, of what the prisoner does while in prison. Regimes must be directed to using the time in prison, not just to filling it. Imprisonment is not a pastime. It is a serious and expensive business. The value of education and training must be exploited more fully. In the two years from March 1988 to March 1990, the time prisoners spent in education increased from 5.6 million to 7.75 million hours. That is a good start, but it is not enough.

Education must be practical and demanding. It must give priority to prisoners with learning difficulties. A high proportion of inmates cannot read, write or handle figures. A person without the basic skills to make a legitimate living is much more likely to resort to illegal means. Give prisoners employment skills and they have an essential foundation for "going straight".

Education must be linked into other aspects of the prison day, and to the prisoner's plans following release. As well as training programmes in prisons, the prison service is embracing National Vocational Qualifications, which, being accepted outside



The futility of Victorian punishment: an engraving of Newgate from Doré's *London*

prison, allow inmates to make sense of their time and to leave with something positive for the future.

In the White Paper I have emphasised the central importance of keeping those sent to prison securely in custody. But bolts, bars and barriers are not enough by themselves. Constructive regimes, respectful relationships and sound justice are all essential elements of a properly secure prison.

So my second central principle

is that prisons should concentrate on those who must be there and who cannot be dealt with in any other way. It cannot be good public policy, or a good use of public money, for the state to hold more people in custody than is absolutely necessary. It cannot be sensible to cut more people off from their family responsibilities than is absolutely necessary. Broken homes resulting from jailed parents often contribute to new generations of delinquents.

The Criminal Justice Act of

1991 makes clear that a sentence of imprisonment should be used only to punish the most serious offences and to protect the public from violent and sexual offenders. By showing that a custodial sentence has two parts — the time spent in prison and the time spent in the community under supervision — it acknowledges that most prisoners eventually return home. Prisoners must be helped to prepare for this. The act also accepts that for many crimes it makes sense to punish people in

the community, under supervision and with clear and challenging requirements. I want to see more imaginative, challenging and effective community penalties, a confident and efficient probation service, and a wide range of bail measures — information schemes and bail hostels — to reduce the numbers who would otherwise have to be remanded in custody. I want to see mentally disturbed offenders treated in an environment likely to reduce rates of reoffending and to provide full protection to the public. I am also firmly committed to ending the use of prisons for juveniles on remand.

While concentrating on the prison service, I have not lost sight of the criminal justice system as a whole. The service shares the objectives of that system, and contributes to its effectiveness. There needs to be closer co-operation between all the agencies and organisations involved. I hope the Criminal Justice Consultative Council announced today, with Lord Justice Finkelstein serving on it, will contribute to that.

Today's White Paper spells out a clear vision by government and a continuing commitment to reform. The government has already put unprecedented resources into the prison system. Twenty-one new prisons have been planned. Ten are already open, and ten more will be completed by the end of 1992. Spending on prison building has risen from £363 million in 1989 to £453 million this year. We have increased staffing by 7,500 prison officers, up 53 per cent since 1979. There is now a prison officer for every two inmates, compared with three in 1980. Now, I am determined to focus the work of the prison service on what it is best placed to achieve.

...and moreover CRAIG BROWN

Only those with the hardest hearts who watched the shattered figure of John Selwyn Gummer sobbing his heart out on *Thatcher: The Final Days* can have failed to have been moved to helpless giggles. The next day, Mr Gummer attempted to stifle such titillating by denying all sobs. Righteous critics then denounced the drama-documentary for trading in gossip.

Gossip! The mere mention of that many-tongued beast was intended to damn the programme in the eyes of right-minded people. Yet for me the great flaw of the programme was that Gummer's tears aside, it so diligently avoided proper gossip. The researchers had, I suspect, been so dogged, checking and cross-checking and re-cross double-checking, that the "drama" gave every impression of having been written by committee.

Why has gossip got such a bad name? The truth behind most of the bizarre events in post-war British politics would have been understood far earlier had the press and public had less faith in studious political analysis, and rather more in gossip. All recent political memoirs and diaries — none more so, incidentally, than his own — prove how wrong Tony Benn is to believe that in politics, "issues" are more important than personalities. Who on earth would have voted for the Alliance in the last election had the loathing of Owen for Jenkins, and Jenkins for Owen, and Owen for Steel,

and Williams for Owen, and Owen for... etc, etc, been more widely known? Yet at the time, what is now the stuff of memoirs would have been pooh-poohed as malicious gossip.

Reverence is allocated to gossip only in retrospect, never at the time. When the Goncourt brothers were reviled in *Figaro* for publishing gossip about their contemporaries, Edmond de Goncourt replied: "Ever since the world began, the only memoirs of any interest have been written by indiscreet individuals, and any only crime is to be alive twenty years after these were written." Nowadays, *The Goncourt Journals* are seen as by far the most lively and accurate account of Paris society of the time.

"One evening at Gavarni's", wrote the Goncourts in October 1855, "Balzac said, 'I should like one of these days to be so well known, so popular, so celebrated, so famous that it would permit me... to break wind in society, and society would think it the most natural thing in the world.' This is a perfect little anecdote about Balzac, but if a television drama documentary team had been around in Paris of the 1850s, what would have happened? Some of those interviewed would not have heard it, some would not have remembered it, still others, in deference to the recently deceased Balzac and to their own self-esteem, would deny it had ever been said. When the drama eventually arrived on television, there

would be a short scene in which Balzac would say, "To be honest, I sometimes think I would like to be even better known than I am already", and that would be that. Good gossip defies consensus.

A diary column in a serious newspaper last week printed a piece of gossip about a certain Lady Wimbome, of whom I had never heard. She had, it was said, employed two smart young ladies to cook for her at her summer retreat. Alas, her guests included two young army officers who were old friends of the young cooks. Horrified by such fraternisation between staff and guests, Lady Wimbome, it was alleged, forbade the mutual exchange of Christmas cards, insisting that the cooks employ tanks and, where appropriate, titles, when addressing their friends.

No doubt many readers angrily dismissed this anecdote as trivial gossip, yet it seems to me a perfect and very comic illustration of society in flux. A thousand years ago in Japan, Sei Shonagon was similarly distressed by the over-familiarity of staff, complaining to her Pillow Book of servants making merry, and adding "If a servant girl says about someone 'What a delightful gentleman he is!' one immediately looks down on him, whereas if she insulted the person in question it would have the opposite effect." The *Pillow Book of Sei Shonagon* is now a Penguin Classic. Must our own gossip hang around for a thousand years before its importance is recognised?

A working jubilee?

THERE has been considerable debate between Buckingham Palace and Whitehall over whether the Queen's loyal subjects will be required to stay at their desks on Thursday, February 6 next year, the 40th anniversary of her accession to the throne. The palace has yet to issue the official royal view, but the idea of a public holiday is said by palace sources to be occupying Her Majesty.

"We can't comment," says the palace. "The matter of a public holiday is for the Home Office." As in a script from *Yes, Minister*, the Home Office in turn says it is waiting to hear from the palace. "If Her Majesty decided to make it a public holiday, that would be that," says a spokeswoman. "We would rubber-stamp the decision. There would be no need for Downing Street to endorse it."

The royal historian Theo Aronson believes a public holiday is unlikely, because the date is also, of course, the anniversary of the death of the Queen's father, George VI. "The Queen is very conscious of that," he says. "The day of her succession is usually kept rather quiet, and the celebrations tend to concentrate on her coronation. But if there is no holiday for the 40th, she will hardly be able to avoid one by the time of her 50th anniversary."

Industry is hoping that the Queen will refrain from calling a national day off. John Banham, director-general of the CBI, which believes there are already too many public holidays, yesterday offered his own alternative celebration. "The best way to mark this milestone is with a major effort to clean up Britain," he says. "There should be a nationwide competition for schools."



So 82 per cent of British males claim that chivalry demands they open doors for women. The *Diary* decided yesterday to put the boast to the test. A lunchtime survey found just 58 per cent prepared to give way and usher their female partners across the threshold first. We even found one woman who held open the door for a male colleague. Perhaps the real finding of the survey is that 24 per cent of British males are economical with the truth?

Speaking in tongues

CIVIL SERVANTS fluent in Russian languages have always been regarded with suspicion in Whitehall — but times change. While an ability to speak French or German is still good for career prospects, fluency in Tadjik, Belorussian or Adzharian Tartar is even better. On behalf of the Treasury's USSR steering committee, Norman Lamont last week ordered all government departments to find staff who can speak Russian languages. His memo indicates the priority given to links with the new republics, and speakers of Estonian, Ukrainian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Armenian, Moldavian, Azerbaijani, Georgian, Chechen, Kirghiz, Uzbek and Turkoman are all being sought.

So far, the response has been sluggish. As one Whitehall source

asks: "A few years ago, who would have admitted to being fluent in Tadjik?" As a result the government has a problem. Whether there are closet speakers of Chuvash out there remains to be seen.

Action film

WHILE the main parties have signed up Hugh Hudson and John Schlesinger to improve their respective leaders' images, the Liberal Democrats have lined up their own cinematic secret weapon, using an unknown and unproven film director.

Handcuffed by a campaign fund of only £250,000, Liberal Democrats have lined up their own cinematic secret weapon, using an unknown and unproven film director.

Rocky patch

THE Japanese Festival has already triggered a flood of imitations among landscape gardeners. All over the country companies are following the fashion for the Zen-inspired gardens. Philip Cave, a landscape architect and author of *Creating Japanese Gardens*, says: "More and more firms are building Japanese gardens for courtyards and places to walk and relax for their stressed executives."

Among the new gardens is the Morgan Sculpture Park in South Wales, designed by Hideo Furuta. The garden's curator, Chris Hughes, says most of the cash needed was raised by local firms "forty of which are Japanese". Many of those enjoying their lunchtime sandwiches in the garden are also Japanese businessmen, he admits.

But those wishing to jump on the bandwagon should beware, says Cave. A landscape architect needs seven years' training and should be a member of the Landscape Institute. But the small ads of many a local newspaper are full of practitioners of the art, second only in their dubiousness to south London second-hand car dealers. "It was recently called to remedy a job done by a man who called himself a landscape gardener who specialised in Japanese gardens. The woman who employed him was very confused. She didn't know much about Zen gardening, but she did know that two tiny oriental shrubs and a pile of rocks was not what she wanted."

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● The casting call for a production of 120 Days of Sodom at the Battersea Arts Centre in November invites those who are "strange and ugly" and "broad-minded". (Some nudity is involved) to audition. If that doesn't disqualify *Diary* readers, how about "should be able to play the accordion"?

Handwritten note in Arabic script: "سكنا من الاول"



NOT RADICAL ENOUGH

This summer's escapes from Brixton prison gave the home secretary, Kenneth Baker, the fright of his career. Had the affair involved anything but prisons, Mr Baker might have quit. But here he is a man with a mission: hence yesterday's white paper on prison reform. Even Lord Justice Woolf, whose seminal report after the Strangeways riot left hardly a stone unturned, calls the white paper radical. With one omission — widening the role of the private sector in order to clip the wings of the Prison Officers' Association — the description is right.

Mr Baker has been reminded that while the general public is not much moved by the task of improving prison conditions, breaches of security leading to escape or riot invite public uproar. Hence the proposed new offence of prison mutiny, which fills a gap in the criminal law while offering Mr Baker a cloak of toughness behind which he can still pursue liberal goals.

The Brixton fiasco also taught Mr Baker that his prison department was even more of a mess than Westminster lore had believed possible. Here was a textbook instance of how wrong it is to give a government department responsibility both for policy and for managing the delivery of services. The evils of government responsibility for British Rail (as a nationalised industry) or the hospitals (as a statutory demand-led service) are as nothing compared to the prisons.

Administrative renewal of the prison department, attention to security, and a reform in penal policy must be pursued simultaneously. Improvements in one will automatically help the others. But over them all looms the prison services' appalling industrial relations, largely due to the entrenched presence in every prison of the POA. The 1987 Fresh Start programme, intended to make the prison officer a salaried professional, has instead become a battleground over manning, with industrial disputes this year in nearly half the prisons.

Exasperated Home Office ministers have

taken to muttering off-stage that nothing can be done while the POA keeps the fingers of its dead hand in every prison pie, and some "sorting out" is due. Yesterday's white paper should have made that plain. The omission is spineless. Why should the reforms in labour relations that ministers expect of the private and nationalised sectors vanish into thin air when similar courage is required in their own departments?

All other progress in penal reform depends on a co-operative, efficient and professional prison staff. So Mr Baker should take a deep breath — and privatise. His white paper, and the promised complete revision of prison rules, would make an excellent prospectus for potential tenderers. He intends to run the prison department at longer arm's-length from the Home Office, by an annual "agreement" between the home secretary and the director general of the prison service. This will state what the objectives are and what the resources will be to meet them, making the prison service more transparent and accountable and bringing its relationship to government closer to a commercial, contractual one.

Mr Baker must move on from there, letting the director general provide the service specified in whatever way was most efficient, by encouraging competitive tenders from the private sector. If some private bids were high because a tenderer had embraced the obstructive attitudes and the bad customs and practices of the POA, that would be his loss. Contracts would go to those who promised most value for money.

Any home secretary who can break through the barriers to reform, to force the prisons towards modern standards of decency and efficiency, will deserve an honourable place in British penal history. Mr Baker has now registered his candidacy for such honours, and he has the political skills to deliver. But anything less than fundamental reform will not work. He must now look to the private sector.

PATIENCE NOT PANIC

Lord Carrington is too seasoned a mediator to expect early results in Yugoslavia. Because both Serbs and Croats were bound to maximise their leverage in peace negotiations, the fighting was likely to intensify in the early stages of talks. Even so, the entrails he began to read yesterday in Dubrovnik could scarcely be more inauspicious.

On the ground, positions on both sides are hardening, with the Croats now frankly out to internationalise the conflict and the federal army retaliating brutally against the successful Croat sieges of its barracks in Croatia. At Lord Carrington's rear, the governments of the divided European Community are exhibiting alarming signs of panic.

Italy and Germany have done Lord Carrington no service by saying that they will recognise the independence of Croatia and Slovenia if negotiations break down. The ineptitude of these announcements beggars belief. The Croat foreign minister predictably responded by threatening to pull out of the talks. The Dutch presidency has convened yet another emergency session of EC foreign ministers this week and is asking the members of the Western European Union to consider sending in a 30,000-strong peace-keeping force.

Both manoeuvres are a mistaken response to a tough dilemma for Western European politicians, anxious not to appear to condone Serbia's blatant territorial ambitions but reluctant to intervene militarily. Croatia has lost control of more than a third of its territory, but is winning the propaganda war among Western publics. Every day of fighting increases the pressure on ministers to "do something" more dramatic than hosting peace talks.

Because Serbia has so far resisted all pressure, "doing something" seems to point towards sending international peacekeeping forces or to recognising the breakaway republics. At this stage, either course would internationalise the war without securing peace. There is now copious experience of peacekeeping forces. They keep two sides apart only when both want to be kept apart

(in Cyprus and the Golan Heights). Otherwise they get shot at (Lebanon, Congo). There may be a role for them to police vacated territory once Lord Carrington and his team are within sight of a political settlement. There is none as yet.

Recognition in the middle of a civil war would be scarcely less dramatic. First the question must be answered: recognise what? — the legal territory of Croatia, or its truncated rump? If the latter, Serbia's irredentist strongman, Slobodan Milosevic, will have won so notable a victory for Greater Serbia that he would feel free to carry his odious and aggressive campaign to the other republics. If the former, Croatia would demand international help — money, arms and even armies — to fight for its lost territories. If any European governments were so reckless as to respond, EC countries would be party to a lethal civil war. All hope of mediation would be at an end. If, on the other hand, they sat on their hands after recognition, Croatia would have abandoned negotiation only to find itself outnumbered and outgunned by Serbs united as never before.

The EC is trying to prevent escalation of this tragic conflict, and to deter intervention by neighbouring countries such as Hungary. Lord Carrington needs time to identify points of leverage. Meanwhile, the fighting must at least be confined to Croatia. The experience of EC monitors is grim. But there is a case for placing them in Bosnia-Herzegovina now, before fighting erupts.

Otherwise the EC should leave dissident republics in no doubt that recognition will depend on negotiations succeeding, not failing, and that there must be solid guarantees both of respect for frontiers and of the rights of all minorities, those of Kosovo's Albanians as well as of Serb and Croat communities. Lord Carrington has the right to ask his EC colleagues for less interference as he pursues his arbitration, coupled with guarantees that no arms will be shipped into this explosive theatre. The Yugoslavs appear unready for peace. Until they are, the EC can offer only patience.

A REVOLVING CABINET DOOR

The pressures of political life produce a freemasonry of ministers lacking in executive skills. Those aspiring to ministerial office will have spent most of their careers, or at least most of their time, on politics. When given high office, they have seldom run a large organisation or gained experience of personnel and decision-taking. Sometimes government is lucky: a minister comes along who is instinctively good at managing staff and taking decisions. Usually, as an Institute of Economic Affairs report suggests, ministers are dreadful at both.

Compared with their opposite numbers on the Continent, British ministers are fly-by-nights. The average cabinet minister holds a job for under two and a half years. The transport department has had eight bosses in 12 years. No top executive, however brilliant, can possibly gain coherent influence over a body the size of a government department in less than six months. Familiarisation itself takes that long. After that, all concentrate on the next reshuffle. Keen for attention in the heated atmosphere of Westminster, they spend much of their time on topics that attract short-term publicity.

The result is the worst of all worlds. Long-term policy direction shifts to the greater continuity of Downing Street and the Treasury. Under Margaret Thatcher, such an outcome appeared to have been a deliberate part of her man-management, to keep

central direction under her control. Civil servants, with a vested interest in ministerial conservatism, cosseted ministers in their short-termism. Ministers responded by doing what their officials suggested was in their best interest and seldom had time to emerge on the far side of "going native" as radical executives in their own right. Hence the scant impact that Mrs Thatcher's supposedly radical 11 years left on Whitehall.

The IEA report draws the sensible conclusion that ministers today are now little more than political ambassadors for their department, sent out to guard its interest in Westminster and at cabinet. Few ever get a grip on their departments, and few departments ever benefit from fundamental reform in their management: witness such unreconstructed bureaucracies as the Foreign Office and the prison service. In an ideal world able ministers would be left in each department for four years as a norm. There they would head a political directorate of full-time aides, not civil servants, to make up for their own inexperience.

This would of course require ministers themselves, or at least senior ones, to accept the force of the criticism against them. Since they do not accept the criticism, there is not the slightest chance of this happening. There is no tighter pre-entry closed shop and no more conservative profession in Britain than that of government minister.

Restrictions on defendants' bail

From the Director of the Prison Reform Trust

Sir, Those who urge new restrictions on bail for defendants (letters, September 10) are basing their arguments on very shaky ground.

The police surveys which purport to show that over half of all burglaries and thefts from cars are committed by people on bail are in the view of many academic criminologists deeply flawed.

The conclusion drawn from these surveys — that magistrates give bail far too readily — is equally erroneous. Some 40 per cent of those who are remanded in custody are eventually found not guilty or are given a non-custodial sentence. Clearly, these are individuals who could, and should, have been granted bail.

One-fifth of all prisoners are now held on remand, in conditions which the Woolf report into last year's prison riots has described as a "travesty of justice". Prison overcrowding and disorder are inextricably linked with the number of people on remand. Indeed, the Woolf report argued that "much more still needs to be done" to increase the use of bail.

It is also ironic that pressure from police and court officials to increase the number of people denied bail comes at a time when their colleagues are grappling with the problems caused by the use of police cells to house over 1,000 remand prisoners for whom there is no space in prison. The waste of police time this engenders may do more to threaten the safety of the public than would giving those prisoners bail.

Yours sincerely,
STEPHEN SHAW, Director,
Prison Reform Trust,
59 Caledonian Road, N1.

From the Director of Nacro

Sir, Mr C. H. Moiser claims (September 10) it is "generally accepted" that 40 per cent of serious offences are committed by bailed defendants.

In fact, the findings of some local surveys which have produced such figures are questionable. For example, the recent Northumbria police study used figures for arrests, whether or not these led to a charge or conviction. The approach of the recent Metropolitan Police study, which estimated that under 16 per cent of offences were committed by those on bail, appears to have been more rigorous.

Offending on bail is of course a legitimate cause for concern. However, the answer is not, as Mr Moiser suggests, to amend the 1976 Bail Act to enable courts to remand more people in custody. Even the Northumbria police figures showed that over 80 per cent of those given bail did not abuse it. An increased overall reluctance to grant bail could mean imprisoning in overcrowded prisons or in police cells many unconvicted people who would have been good bail risks.

The Bail Act already allows refusal of bail where there is a likelihood of offending. The real answer is not harsher bail laws, but to improve our methods of distinguishing good from bad bail risks, for example by bail information schemes.

Yours faithfully,
VIVIAN STERN, Director,
Nacro (National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders),
169 Clapham Road, SW9,
September 10.

National lottery

From Mr Richard Faulkner

Sir, Andrew Tottenham (September 16) claims it is difficult to see how the UK government will be able to keep foreign lotteries from selling lottery tickets in the UK. There are two simple answers. First, as Home Office minister Peter Lloyd told the Commons on March 12 this year:

The Commission's White Paper programme for the completion of the single market does not contain proposals for the harmonisation of gambling legislation... It is Her Majesty's Government's policy that controls on gambling are matters for national authorities.

Secondly, submission of the Coopers and Lybrand report to the European Commission has been followed by a series of representations by European national lottery operators to the effect that they do not favour the cross-border sales of lottery tickets. Indeed, at the recent Interlot conference held in Sweden every national lottery which attended restated their opposition to the dropping of barriers.

It is therefore purely a domestic decision for us in Britain whether or not we have a national lottery. The reality is that the football pools in the UK largely fulfil the role that national lotteries occupy abroad. Those of your correspondents who look for additional funding would be well advised to give their wholehearted backing to the new Foundation for Sport and the Arts.

There is no reason why, with additional government and parliamentary support, it would not be possible to increase significantly the £60 million a year which is now flowing from the pools to these good causes.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD FAULKNER (Director),
The Advisory Forum on Gambling,
7 Buckingham Gate, SW1.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number: (071) 782 5046.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Unity before doubts in the church

From the Reverend David Hutt and others

Sir, We are clergy of the London diocese responsible for churches of differing traditions but holding fast to an Anglican perspective based essentially on scripture, tradition and reason.

Recent controversial proposals regarding a formal split or schism within the national church are, in our view, contrary to the breadth and character of the Church of England. We have to live with doubt and difficulty but we also have to stay together, endeavouring by prayer and dialogue to work for the unity of Christ's church which is the Father's will.

The Bishop of London, Dr David Hope, has inspired us in his enthralling address (report, September 16) to honour our diverse loyalties and to unite under the great symbol of the cross knowing that to be the way of salvation.

We remain, yours faithfully,
DAVID HUTT,
RICHARD BEWES
(Rector, All Souls, Langham Place),
GEOFFREY BROWN
(Vicar, St Martin-in-the-Fields),
DONALD REEVES
(Rector, St James's, Piccadilly),
All Saints Vicarage,
7 Margaret Street, W1,
September 16.

From Mr Frank Field, MP for Birkenhead (Labour)

Sir, The ordination of women is opposed by those who believe that the Anglican Church doesn't have the authority to make such a decision on its own, by those who dress up their prejudice against women in high-sounding language, and by those who are genuinely worried about the schismatic effect of reform.

Currently each diocese is being asked to approve a measure to allow women to be ordained. At the same time they are discussing on what terms people stay in or leave the church. It is here that the seeds of schism are being sown.

Put simply, the terms for leaving are too generous and the price of staying is too high. A 50-year-old priest gains, over ten years, £76,000 in compensation, is offered a shared mortgage with the Church Commissioners, or a suitable new home to rent. At the same time as giving people these financial inducements to leave, the church is proposing to tighten the terms under which people are invited to stay.

I believe the whole approach to reform is misguided. A church that teaches tolerance should aim to

maximise support for the reform. Those who oppose it should be assured of their value and of a continuing supply of leaders representing their views. This means a pledge that clergy opposed to women's ordination will be appointed bishops. Similarly, parishes not wishing a woman priest should be given a pledge that their objection will hold sway until the majority of the parish decides otherwise.

A strong advocate of women's ordination, I believe that once the reform is through much of the opposition will collapse. To minimise the chance of any schism moves are now urgent. The hierarchy needs to spell out clearly a policy of tolerating differences over women's ordination should the measure be passed. It should also withdraw the redundancy proposals. If people still wish to leave after every attempt has been made to encourage them to stay, then they should do so without a fat cheque in their back pocket.

Yours truly,
FRANK FIELD,
House of Commons,
September 11.

From the Reverend John Hawthorne

Sir, You report (September 9) on the voting figures from deaneries on the question of the ordination of women to the priesthood, with 65.5 per cent of clergy and 69.7 per cent of laity so far voting in favour.

It calls to mind the Bishop of Salisbury's address to his diocesan synod on the proposed legislation in October 1985, as reprinted in *Sarum Link*. He said:

We all recognise that this is a painfully divisive issue... It will, in my view, be a tragedy if such a measure goes through by a tight majority — say, with only 67 or 68 per cent support. As most of you may know, I personally long with all my heart for the day when women can be ordained to the priesthood; and I believe it will come. But I would rather see it postponed for years than introduced into a church where three members out of every ten believed it to be wrong.

Our bishops will be called upon for some agonising heart-searching when they finally come to vote at General Synod, if the tragedy so deeply feared by Bishop Baker is to be avoided, for, ultimately, the pastoral responsibility following synod's decision will be theirs.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN HAWTHORNE,
The Vicarage, The Green,
Tetbury, Gloucestershire,
September 9.

Healthy eating

From Mr Nigel Dudley

Sir, Sir Francis Avery Jones (September 10) makes a timely point by suggesting a campaign for "protective foods" as a way of preventing ill health. The tendency in Britain is to define food quality in negative terms, such as the minimum nutrients required to prevent deficiency diseases, rather than in a positive spirit of using a complete, balanced diet as a route to good health.

However, such a campaign should also consider the quality, as well as the type, of food eaten. Many modern foods have been adulterated, and their positive health benefits diluted, by use of artificial additives, injection of water to add bulk, and the tendency to include large amounts of sugar and/or salt in

foods ranging from yoghurt to baked beans.

More subtly, some aspects of modern intensive agriculture have reduced the food value of even fresh fruit and vegetables. Research in Germany has found that the vitamin C content of some modern apple varieties is only a sixth that of traditional types.

Far more research is needed on comparisons between food grown under organic agricultural systems. A positively healthy diet requires the correct constituents and food production systems that maximise quality.

Yours sincerely,
NIGEL DUDLEY
(Project Director),
Soil Association,
86 Colston Street,
Bristol, Avon.

Poll tax rebates

From Councillor Steve Tennison

Sir, In its council tax proposals, the government seems to have at last conceded the basic unfairness and administrative nonsense of making benefit claimants pay 20 per cent of the local taxation bill. From 1993, the government intends to reintroduce 100 per cent rebates (though it has not said who is going to pay for them).

So when is it going to see sense and allow the same 100 per cent rebates for the poll tax? All the local authority associations, including those which are Tory-controlled, plus the independent Audit Commission, have called for this. For many councils the costs of collection in these cases are much the same as the revenues collected. Sometimes,

the costs of collection are greater. Not only is it fundamentally wrong to persecute the poor in this way, it actually impedes council efficiency. Does the government really want the people who genuinely cannot pay the poll tax to be taken to court, and ultimately jailed, all for the sake of a liability which, in Lewisham's case, is as low as 65p a week?

Ministers are due to meet local authority leaders on September 24. Let us hope that they are willing to listen and, for once, act upon what they hear.

Yours faithfully,
STEVE TENNISON
(Finance committee chairman,
London Borough of Lewisham),
Lewisham Town Hall,
Catford Road, SE6,
September 13.

What might have been

From Mrs Lois Kershaw

Sir, Dr Thomas's district planning officer (letter, September 10) is obviously a man of experience. He knows perfectly well that, in the event of a planning application's refusal, the applicants will appeal. The applicants know equally well that the district council, which a few years ago might have contested the appeal, will no longer do so, because in the event of the council's losing, after a public enquiry, very heavy costs will be awarded against it. In

that event, not only Dr Thomas's village but the community charge-payers of the whole district would have to pay.

Parish councils have no power and, although much lip service is paid to the contrary, precious little notice is taken of their views on planning matters, as we know to our cost in this village.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,
LOIS KERSHAW
(Parish councillor),
Mill Farm, Hesketh Bank,
Preston, Lancashire,
September 10.

As you like it

From Mrs Hazel Lawrence

Sir, With so many actors out of work, why is it that sportspeople are being asked to perform in pantomime?

Does this mean that we can expect to see members of the Royal Shakespeare Company in the scrum or bowling from the gasworks end? Yours faithfully,
HAZEL LAWRENCE,
19 Newport Drive,
Fishbourne,
Chichester,
West Sussex,
September 11.

Post-communist clue

From Mr James Anderson

Sir, It is not only the dissolution of the Soviet Union that creates a problem for crossword compilers (September 7) and others: we need to coin a generic term for all things that used to be red but are not any longer, like telephone boxes and, say, Bernard Levin. Crossword solvers can be forgiven for nostalgically recalling the good old days of Nikita when they knew who was under their bed.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES ANDERSON,
Bishops Court,
27-33 Artillery Lane, E1.

Narrow range of copyright talks

From the Chief Executive of the Library Association

Sir, One of the subjects on which we are increasingly governed by legislation made in the institutions of the European Community is copyright. The European Commission has initiated a number of proposals, relating to such matters as copyright in computer software, duration of copyright and the rights of copyright-owners to restrict access to their works.

Earlier this year, the Commission published proposals for the harmonisation throughout the Community of national practices on the lending of copyright materials such as books and audio-visual recordings. These proposals would seriously affect access by the public to works which have been placed in the public domain. In the normal fashion, consultations are taking place between the Commission, national governments and interested organisations.

It now transpires that on September 26 the Legal Committee of the European Parliament will hold a "hearing" on these proposals but that the only organisations and individuals invited to the hearing will be representatives of copyright-owners. As things stand at present, library interests and other representatives of consumers will be excluded. This association has protested vigorously against such a one-sided approach to consultation by a parliamentary committee but has so far received no response from the chairman of the committee and the British members serving on it.

It would be unthinkable that a select committee of the House of Commons would take evidence only from representatives of one side of an argument and it will be a sad and deplorable reflection on the impartiality of the European Parliament if the present one-sided hearing takes place.

There are many faults in the European Community's legislation-making processes but failure to consult with all interested parties has not normally been one of them. It is to be hoped that the Legal Committee will rapidly appreciate that it has an obligation to listen to all sides of a question before communicating its views to the Commission and the Council of Ministers.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE CUNNINGHAM,
Chief Executive,
The Library Association,
7 Ridgmount Street, WC1.

Hong Kong talks

From Sir Alfred Sherman

Sir, Lord Fanshawe of Richmond (September 12) is truly wrong when he implies that I "rely on hindsight" in my call for review of the 1984 joint declaration on Hong Kong.

First, I said it all at the time. The *South China Morning Post* of September 4, 1991, records on the occasion of my recent visit that my warnings in 1981 justified echoes of "I told you so".

Secondly, no one with a rational and empirical approach to politics should have needed Tiananmen Square and its aftermath to demonstrate the workings of communist dictatorship.

Lastly, to review policy assumptions in the light of experience is never hindsight but common sense.

Yours etc.,
ALFRED SHERMAN,
14 Malvern Court,
Onslow Square, SW7.

Older climbers

From Mr Mike Banks

Sir, As a youth in my 68th year, I managed to struggle to the top of the Old Man of Hoy last year. It was therefore most agreeable to read that your correspondent, Mr Ronald Faux (article, September 9), a mere child of 55, had followed effortlessly in my wake.

There is only one decent English reaction to this surge of activity. An Old Hoysers Club must clearly be formed. With a club tie?

Yours etc.,
MIKE BANKS,
Withycombe House,
Packhorse Lane,
Southstoke, Bath, Avon,
September 14.

Round Reading Room

From the Director of the British Museum

Sir, There seems to be some doubt (expressed yet again in today's leading article) as to the use of the Round Reading Room of the British Museum after the British Library has left for St Pancras.

The trustees of the museum have, for the last few years, made many statements to the effect that the Round Reading Room will continue to be used for library purposes. They have not deviated from this intention.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID WILSON, Director,
The British Museum, WC1.
September 13.

Buying in space

From Mr M. A. Gallagher

Sir, With regard to a lease for the Soviet Mir-2 space station (report, September 10), and Mrs Seiber's letter (September 11), surely the leasehold would be one light year.

Yours faithfully,
M. A. GALLAGHER,
80 Harcourt Road,
Bushey, Hertfordshire.

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NEW RELEASES

CABERZA DE VACA (R): A comedy about a Spanish conquistador captured by Indians. Director: Nicolas Echazuri. Video: 01-427 0577.

ONLY THE LOVELY (R): John Candy in a comedy about a man trying to escape his mother's apron strings. A hilarious comedy from Home Alone director Chris Columbus. Director: Chris Columbus. Video: 01-427 0577.

REAR WINDOW (R): The Master of the Universe turns into a robot, battling his way through a city. A sequel to the original, featuring a new cast. Director: Michael Winner. Video: 01-427 0577.

TRUE IDENTITY (R): Larry Harvey takes out a new film about a man who becomes a woman. A comedy about a man who becomes a woman. Director: Larry Harvey. Video: 01-427 0577.

CURRENT

ALICE (R): Woody Allen's comedy about a man who becomes a woman. A comedy about a man who becomes a woman. Director: Woody Allen. Video: 01-427 0577.

BLUE NIGHT IN THE HEART OF THE WEST (R): A comedy about a man who becomes a woman. A comedy about a man who becomes a woman. Director: Woody Allen. Video: 01-427 0577.

BOLD GIRLS (R): A comedy about a man who becomes a woman. A comedy about a man who becomes a woman. Director: Woody Allen. Video: 01-427 0577.

CARMEN JONES (R): A comedy about a man who becomes a woman. A comedy about a man who becomes a woman. Director: Woody Allen. Video: 01-427 0577.

COMEDY OF ERRORS (R): A comedy about a man who becomes a woman. A comedy about a man who becomes a woman. Director: Woody Allen. Video: 01-427 0577.

DANCING AT LUGHANASHA (R): A comedy about a man who becomes a woman. A comedy about a man who becomes a woman. Director: Woody Allen. Video: 01-427 0577.

DON'T DRESS FOR DINNER (R): A comedy about a man who becomes a woman. A comedy about a man who becomes a woman. Director: Woody Allen. Video: 01-427 0577.

HEDDA GABLER (R): A comedy about a man who becomes a woman. A comedy about a man who becomes a woman. Director: Woody Allen. Video: 01-427 0577.

JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT (R): A comedy about a man who becomes a woman. A comedy about a man who becomes a woman. Director: Woody Allen. Video: 01-427 0577.

MOSCOW CITY BALLET (R): A comedy about a man who becomes a woman. A comedy about a man who becomes a woman. Director: Woody Allen. Video: 01-427 0577.

OPERA NORTH (R): A comedy about a man who becomes a woman. A comedy about a man who becomes a woman. Director: Woody Allen. Video: 01-427 0577.

AT OUR TABLE (R): A comedy about a man who becomes a woman. A comedy about a man who becomes a woman. Director: Woody Allen. Video: 01-427 0577.

THE ABNEY TABLE (R): A comedy about a man who becomes a woman. A comedy about a man who becomes a woman. Director: Woody Allen. Video: 01-427 0577.

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CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and where indicated with the symbol (R) on release across the country.

CLIQUE MY EYES (R): Sexual games between brother and sister one long hot London summer. Video: 01-427 0577.

EDWARD SCISSORHANDS (R): Tim Burton's chilling fantasy about a boy with scissors for hands in a large American suburb. Video: 01-427 0577.

JUNGLE FEVER (R): A comedy about a man who becomes a woman. A comedy about a man who becomes a woman. Director: Woody Allen. Video: 01-427 0577.

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Level spirits declining to soar

Blithe Spirit
Royal Exchange,
Manchester

James Maxwell once produced *Hay Fever*, that notoriously insubstantial Coward comedy, with the irreverent robustness of farce, and the play blossomed wonderfully. He now tackles a much more conventional play in the city of its premiere, and makes surprisingly little of it. Promising elements are feebly illuminated by intermittent sparkle. This *Spirit* is willing, but the flash is weak.

As yet, the cast lacks the detached irony with which Coward's characters speak their lines within quotation marks, as it were, and at a tedious distance, as if disarming criticism with self-mockery. The Royal Exchange actors are serious, literal and a trifle plodding. The role of Charles emerges clearly as a mere foil to the spectral Elvira, the inconveniently *renegade* dead wife, and the bewildered outrage of the live one. Martin Turner's playing, very much on one note, hardly helps the prosy stretches which lie in wait in Act I like patches of quicksand. Coward himself was aware of the passive nature of this almost stooge role, but must have done more with it (as Rex Harrison did in the film).

Susie Blake's hearty medium must be the youngest Madame Arcati ever. Unguarding her skirted loins by unbuttoning the robe from between her cyclical legs, she has not developed too much from the Fey Brown Owl she

surely was. She lacks authority for Madame Arcati's *obiter dicta*, neither pompous nor comically earnest, but a pleasant young woman going through a faddish stage (next week: vegetarianism).

Pictorially, this Arcati is a treat. Her outfit combines masonic motifs with space travel, as if designed for Sarastro in a futuristic production of *The Magic Flute*. The cloche hat dashingy topped by the cobra of Old Nile puts, in all senses, the lid on it.

The improbably named Phoebe de Gaye also comes up with a beautiful design for the ghostly Elvira. A switch of hair erupts from the tightly hugging cap of a one-piece costume (arms and hands included) that spreads into a swirl of delicately shaded skirts as if this earth spirit was erupting from a richer dust. Miranda Foster looks amused, mischievous, but much too nice, and the three-way badinage (with the harassed widower who can see her, and his present wife who cannot) needs to go much more mischievous.

Oddly enough, Rosalind March as the second Mrs Condomine has a gamine look that faintly recalls Kay Hammond, the original Elvira. She has the makings of a stylish comic actress apart from vocal indistinctness: a more positive character than we usually get in this role.

Production may yet ignite, but someone should tell the director that no gentleman would host a formal dinner party in a plush smoking jacket tied with a fringed sash over his evening shirt. And not even in the dark days of 1941 did successful novelists wear socks with sandals.

MARTIN HOYLE



Susie Blake's Madame Arcati: a pleasant young woman in a faddish stage

All About Eve
Town & Country

DEMOGRAPHIC analysts would probably describe All About Eve fans as non-aspirant dreamers. They are the sort of people who wear T-shirts adorned with astrological symbols and learn the words to all the songs.

How much this reinforces the band's live performances was apparent from the ecstatic throwing of arms in the air that took place each time Julianne Regan and her musicians hit

a climactic chorus. Since "tension and release" songs featured heavily, an air of almost religious devotion accumulated. Perhaps it was the beer, or perhaps the imagery of ravens and stars, but some of the audience seemed lost in their own mystical trance.

All About Eve dragged British folk-rock into the heavy-metal age during the late Eighties. This was a period when electric folk music was profoundly unfashionable, yet the charms of such an introverted, highly romantic style were clearly waiting to be discovered by a new generation.

"Strange Way", taken from the latest album, typified the style. The

introduction, played on a 12-string Rickenbacker by new guitarist Marty Wilson-Piper, sounded like the sort of music we indelibly associate with medieval fayres and Arthurian jousts. Regan reinforced this mood of high decibel pagantry with her winsome, aspirated vocals. The style recalled the early days of Fairport Convention, although All About Eve have a glossier sheen and a calculated grasp of the pop charts.

Commercial aptitude does not necessarily imply a slick stage show. Both Wilson-Piper and bassist Andy Cousin wear their backstage passes prominently, as if to emphasise their low-key image. Style is determinedly

unimportant to a band like this, and the stage set was restricted to an electric fan blowing a curtain.

Perhaps

PERC 2

Figure 1 is a line graph illustrating the percentage of the total sample for various age groups across different years. The x-axis represents years from 1970 to 2000, and the y-axis represents the percentage of the total sample, ranging from 0 to 100. The age groups are: 0-14, 15-24, 25-34, 35-44, 45-54, 55-64, 65-74, and 75+. The graph shows a general trend of decreasing percentages for younger age groups and increasing percentages for older age groups over time.

Year	0-14	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75+
1970	18	15	12	10	8	6	4	2
1975	17	14	11	9	7	5	3	2
1980	16	13	10	8	6	4	2	1
1985	15	12	9	7	5	3	1	1
1990	14	11	8	6	4	2	1	1
1995	13	10	7	5	3	1	1	1
2000	12	9	6	4	2	1	1	1

00

EUROSPORT

● **Via the Astra satellite.**
10.00pm Artistic Gymnastics 3.00 Field Hockey
The Netherlands v UK 4.30
Eurovision 5.30 Football "Euro Games" 6.30
Eurosport News 7.00 C.R. Racing 8.00
Fussball 8.30 C.R. Racing 9.30 Wheeling
10.30 Eurosport News

SCREENSPORT

● **Via the Astra satellite.**
7.00pm Eurocup 7.30 International Basketball
6.30 Rugby League 8.30 Eurocup
8.30 Football "Euro Games" 9.30
Eurosport News 10.30 Wheeling
11.00 Eurocup 12.30pm Judo French
Horse Racing 1.00 Powersports International
at 2.00 Volvo PGA European Tour
Flight Night at the Forum 4.00 Euro 4.30
Sports Football Highlights 5.00 Shop-Four

LIFESTYLE

● **Via the Astra satellite.**
10.00pm The Great American Gameshow
11.15 Coffee Break 11.20 Everyday Work-out
11.30 Great Circle of San Francisco
12.15pm Sally Jessy Raphael 1.05 Body
Talk 1.10 Search for Tomorrow 1.30 The
Edge of Night 2.05 Video Vistas 2.30
Lifestyle Plus 2.40 City Fletcher's Lifestyle
Garden 3.10 White Shadow 4.00 The Book
4.10 Beverly Hills Bunz 4.40 The Great
American Gameshow 6.00 The Self-
Vision Shopping Programme 8.00 Cine
10.00 The Self-Vision Shopping Pro-
gramme 12.00 Sensuelle Jukebox

MTV

● **Via the Astra satellite.**
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Date of birth of eldest adult to be covered _____

Occupation _____

Current medical insurance scheme (if any) _____

Renewal date _____

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AFC0219/117

Government retreats from charges for adult courses

By DAVID TYTLER, EDUCATION EDITOR

THE government is on the verge of abandoning its plans to charge for a wide range of adult education courses. Surprised by the weight of opposition from their own side, education ministers are now ready to take on the Treasury and advise John Major that the scheme should be shelved.

The prime minister gave his personal stamp of approval to the White Paper reforms of further and higher education published earlier this year, but proposals to charge for what the government now describes as "leisure courses" have led to widespread opposition.

Publicly, the government has argued consistently that subsidies should be removed from classes such as language instruction to car maintenance, steel band lessons to shirt-making, and jam-making to flower-arranging, which many adults take up in their spare time. The government

line has always been that the limited resources available should be targeted on vocational courses which lead to recognised qualifications.

Every year about 3.4 million adults sign up for the part-time courses. Under the government's proposals, the non-vocational courses could cost up to £500 a term compared with the £25 or so now being paid.

Some of the fiercest opposition comes from the 9,000 Women's Institutes, which joined Conservative peers and MPs, educationists from all parties and the colleges themselves to line up with the Labour party to tell the government that the charging plans are unacceptable.

The campaigners argue that the disputed classes lead to further and higher education and allow mature students to enter careers that would not normally be open to them. Courses and even some colleges will be shut and teachers will lose jobs, they say.

Education ministers fear that, if the government persists with the proposals, it will face hostility from its own ranks in the House of Commons and a probable defeat in the House of Lords, an embarrassment it would want to avoid in the run-up to a general election. The government will present any about-face as the result of full consultations, but Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary, has so far refused to publish the mostly critical responses to the White Paper's charging proposals.

His ministerial team are expected to argue that it is better to say that as a result of wide consultation they have now decided to drop what were, after all, only proposals. Such a decision will make it easier to continue with other less contentious proposals in the re-organisation of education and training for 16- to 19-year-olds which the government says is essential if the country is to keep up with its European competitors.

The education department said yesterday that no decisions had been taken, but that all the White Paper proposals were subject to consultation.

Debt-ridden students, page 8

Shuttle dodges debris

Continued from page 1
five miles of any orbiting debris, and denied that there was any danger of a collision. "We knew it was coming," the spokesman said. "It was not an emergency."

The shuttle, travelling at 17,500mph, reduced orbit from an altitude of 352 miles to maintain standard safety distances. The flight director, Al Pennington, said: "We don't like to take risks." Even though the craft was not on a direct collision course, 1.7 miles was an "uncomfortable distance".

The incident highlights a growing hazard for space flights. The US Office of Technology Assessment said a year ago that space had become so littered with "junk" from previous flights that low orbits around earth could soon become too dangerous for shuttles, satellites and other craft.

US Space Command already tracks 6,645 artificial objects in space of 4in or more in diameter, weighing 4.5 million pounds in total.



There's the rub: Lady Jenkin, left, makes clear her delight as she tries out a Japanese massage chair. Cynthia Payne took it more calmly, but still approved. "This is better than anything you get at my house," she said.

Princes and a madam hail Japan festival

By JOE JOSEPH

"I DON'T know why they invited me," said Cynthia Payne, the famously former madam, as the Prince of Wales, the Crown Prince of Japan, the world high-brows, diplomats and bigwigs from the Anglo-Japanese business community gathered at London's Victoria & Albert Museum to celebrate the opening of the Japan Festival.

"I mean there's not many other celebs around, apart from Derek Jameson over there. Maybe they wanted me to organise a party. I'm a great admirer of the prince. But I would never have thought that running a brothel would land me up at a reception where I was just a few inches from Prince Charles."

The two monarchs-to-be were heralded into the foyer of the museum by a posse of Japanese children drumming out a steady, heavy beat on traditional Japanese drums. The Prince of Wales had nothing but praise for Japan and for the arrival in Britain of the biggest celebration of another nation's culture held in this country. There is everything from traditional kabuki drama and sumo wrestling to a Japanese version of Jesus Christ Superstar.

"Everyone knows of Japan's astonishing postwar achievements. It is impossible to ignore the enormous economic and commercial power and influence Japan now wields," he said.

Over the next five months, the festival will offer over 350 events in 200 venues across Britain. Next weekend, Hyde Park in London will be taken over by a huge Matsuri carnival. There will be food, dancing, demonstrations of the Japa-

nese tea ceremony, martial arts shows and more children drumming their hearts out.

Visions of Japan, the glossy exhibition at the heart of the festival, opened its doors yesterday at the V & A in South Kensington. Prince Charles and Prince Naruhito were guided through the show, staged in the museum's newly re-opened north and south courts.

They went from a room evoking Japan's traditions and past, through a gallery screaming and whirling and flashing with the bustle of modern Tokyo, and out to a final space, that tried to create a vision of Japan's high-tech future.

We all like culture, of course, but bottlenecks did seem to collect around the less highbrow aspects of modern Japanese life in Room Two. There were queues of titled ladies waiting to collect their printed horoscopes from in front of the fake temple.

There were lords in Savile Row suits fiddling with the joysticks of video games. There were the ladies again squirming with pleasure and embarrassment as they gazed on the automatic massage chairs.

There were company directors seating themselves discreetly into a sound-proofed karaoke singalong cubicle and belting out Frank Sinatra favourites. Cynthia Payne seemed to get little further once she had chanced upon the massage chairs. "This is better than anything you get in my house."

Inauguration borrowed, page 8
Beginners' Noh, page 13
Diary, page 14
Nissan's big boost, page 21

Government sets out its prison reforms

Continued from page 1
implementation of the reforms. Kenneth Baker, the home secretary, was told many months ago by the Treasury that the white paper could not unsettle the government's plan to keep the lid on public expenditure in the run-up to the general election. Earlier this year the Home Office won an extra £18 million from the exchequer to

accelerate its programme for installing toilets in cells. Roy Hattersley, the shadow home secretary, said the document was replete with radical principles, rather than firm, time-tabled commitments. "Paragraph after paragraph ends with a statement which says this year, next year, sometime, never," he said. For the Liberal Democrats, Robert Madge said the

paper flattered to deceive, by accepting many of the Woolf recommendations.

The white paper promises the introduction of around a dozen reforms over the next two years, with £16 million additional spending on security - a commitment partly reflecting the political "fall-out" from the escape of two IRA suspects from Brixton jail this summer. A bill proposing

the creation of a new offence of prison mutiny, with a maximum penalty of ten years, and stiffer penalties for people aiding escape from jail will be introduced in the next parliamentary session.

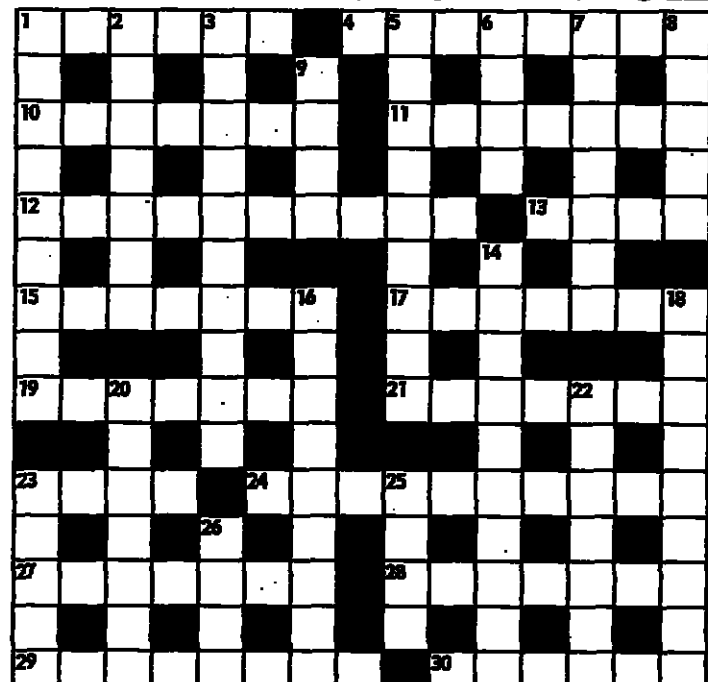
White Paper details, page 7
Kenneth Baker, page 14
Leading article, page 15
Letters, page 15
Law Times, page 29-31

TOMORROW IN THE TIMES

Mention listed buildings and conversions at the same time and there can be heated words. However, the two can sometimes live together. The Duke of Westminster's group has returned a Grade II* listed town house to its former greatness by converting it into offices. The building, on the southeast corner of Eaton Square, London, has been restored at a cost of £1.8 million. The top floor has been replaced, the 1860 wallpaper renovated and the original iron staircase stripped of several generations of white paint to reveal intricate leaf embellishments.

The Times property pages: order Wednesday's Times today

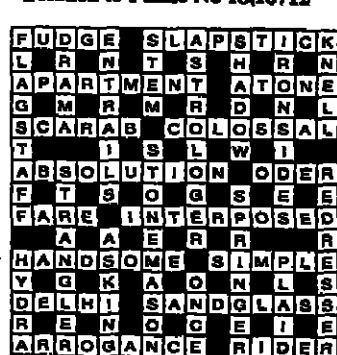
THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 18,713



ACROSS

- 1 Earnings of a sergeant, perhaps, in one northern state (6).
- 2 Bad step taken behind the scenes (3-5).
- 3 Game has youth leader feeling like pulp (7).
- 4 Upset about being carried in Republicans' coach (7).
- 5 South London borough, say, beats this for security (7-3).
- 6 He succeeds in belonging to them, though not at first (4).
- 7 Unidentified person left outside? It's always so (7).
- 8 Lean over to drain what's left at bottom of glass (7).
- 9 Article could be more a proposition (7).
- 10 Reptile found by terrier crossing lake (7).
- 11 A small bird in the wood (4).
- 12 Scottish city gal sewing a shift? (10).

Solution to Puzzle No 18,712



A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?

By Philip Howard

- ABSQUATULATE**
a. Having a protruding stomach
b. To decamp
c. A genus of lizard
PHRONTISTERY
a. A think tank
b. The monkey puzzle tree
c. A dole at waist height
SOSOLÉ
a. Soya bean oil
b. A descendant
c. A creeping underground stem
FRAMPAL
a. A fax machine pal
b. A savoury pancake
c. Peppery, cross-grained

Answers on page 18

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M-ways/roads M1-Dartford T 733
M-ways/roads Dartford T-M25 734
M-ways/roads M25-M4 735
M25 London Orbital only 736
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National motorways 737
West Country 738
Wales 739
Midlands 740
East Angles 741
North-west England 742
North-east England 743
Scotland 744
Northern Ireland 745
AA Roadwatch is charged at 36p per minute (cheap rate) and 48p per minute at all other times.

Much of the British Isles will be dry with some sunshine. Later in the day, it will turn cloudy over north-west Scotland and Northern Ireland with rain reaching these parts in the evening. It will be another windy day in the north, with gales possible over the more exposed parts of the north-west later. Outlook: rain in most parts, becoming drier and brighter in the south on Thursday

MIDDAY: 1=cloudy; 2=drizzle; 3= fog; 4= sun; 5=clear; 6= snow; 7= rain; 8=cloud; 9=rain				Sun		Rain		Max	
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SEPTEMBER 17
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festival

JOSEPH
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Visions of Japan
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YESTERDAY
LONDON
HIGH

● BUSINESS AND FINANCE 21-27
● LAW 29,31,32
● SPORT 34-38

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 17 1991

21
Business Editor
John Bell

Bulk gas supply row ends

THE six-month dispute that has stalled progress towards greater competition in the British power generation market ended yesterday when British Gas published the new bulk supply tariffs demanded by Ofgas, its regulator.

British Gas is to cut its price to would-be developers of gas-fired power station to 19.9p a therm from 1995. The 35 per cent price rise, to 22.5p a therm, initiated in March to choke demand, remains in force because of a shortage of supplies.

Despite the compromise, the underlying source of friction between Ofgas and the company remains. A new battle is expected to flare if British Gas has not come up with a price that balances demand and supply perfectly.

Price tightrope, page 23

Dividend held

Rugby Group, the supplier of building materials, is holding its interim dividend at 2.85p a share after a further decline in pre-tax profits from £34.5 million to £27.36 million in the six months to end-June. Earnings were 6.3p a share, down from 7.67p.

Tempus, page 24

Greek reforms

Constantine Mitsotakis, the Conservative prime minister of Greece, told *The Times* in an interview yesterday that he expects to reduce inflation to single figures in his effort to reform the Greek economy and encourage foreign trade and investment.

British links, page 23

Dalgety falls

Dalgety, the food and agribusiness group, reported a 6 per cent fall in pre-tax profits to £110.9 million for the year to end-June. Tempus, page 24

THE POUND

US dollar 1.7410 (+0.0050)
German mark 2.9136 (-0.0064)
Exchange index 91.0 (-0.1)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share 2051.0 (-16.8)
FT-SE 100 2606.0 (-19.8)
New York Dow Jones 2994.63 (+8.94)
Tokyo Nikkei Ave 1900.00
Closed

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:
Petersen Zach 3881p (+12p)
Hartstone 2719p (+10p)
J Hewitt 1571p (+10p)
Incheape 1212p (+10p)
Kelsey Ind 4471p (+8p)
Vodafone 347p (+15p)
Abbott Mead 3271p (+10p)
Oliva Holdings 1150 (+11p)
Estates Gen 1150 (+10p)
Assoc British Ports 377p (+19p)
CE Health 4871p (+11p)
FALLS:
News Corp 450p (-10p)
Shell 512p (-18p)
Enterprises 8161p (-15p)
THORN EMI 8019p (-12p)
BICC 4221p (-9p)
Whitbread 'A' 4871p (-8p)
Davies & Newman 125p (-10p)
Bass 4521p (-8p)
VH Smith 'A' 4521p (-8p)
Closing Prices... Page 27

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base: 10 1/2%
3-month interbank 10 1/4-10 1/2%
3-month eligible bills 9 3/4-9 7/8%
US: Prime Rate 8%
Federal Funds 5 1/4-5 1/2%
3-month Treasury Bills 5 1/8-5 1/4%
30-year bonds 10 1/2-10 3/4%

CURRENCIES

London: New York:
£: \$1.7400 £: \$1.7405
DM: £2.9128 DM: £2.9133
Sfr: £2.5439 Sfr: £2.5444
FF: £9.3398 FF: £9.3403
Yen: £232.64 Yen: £232.69
ECU: £0.70205 ECU: £0.70205
ECU: £0.70205 ECU: £0.70205

GOLD

London Fixing:
AM \$344.60 pm \$345.40
Close \$345.25-345.75 (£198.40-198.90)
New York:
Comex \$345.05-346.45

NORTH SEA OIL

Brant (Sep) \$20.50 bbl (\$20.35)

RETAIL PRICES

RPI: 119.1 August (1987-100)
* Denotes midday trading price

Statisticians say manufacturing recession is over

By ANATOLE KALETSKY
ECONOMICS EDITOR

GOVERNMENT statisticians yesterday declared that Britain's manufacturing recession was probably over, despite an unexpectedly sharp fall in retail sales last month. Retail sales fell 1.4 per cent in August. But, coming after two months of sharp improvements, this sudden setback had questionable economic significance, since it still left sales volumes well above their depressed levels of earlier this year.

The Central Statistical Office, which has a much-prized record of political independence, attached more importance to separate figures published yesterday on industrial production. These showed that manufacturing output grew 0.8 per cent

between June and July and showed the first rise in the three-month trend of output since the recession started.

The figures meant that "the decline in manufacturing industry now appears to have halted", the statisticians said. They noted that this was the first time the CSO had felt confident enough to suggest that the decline in manufacturing output was at an end. The preliminary retail sales figures, showing a fall in sales volumes to 119.1 in August from 120.8 in July did not necessarily contradict this picture, they added. Looking at three-month averages, the CSO's usual measure of underlying trends, retail sales from May to July were just 1/4 per cent lower than in the March to May period. Because the March figure was exaggerated by the Budget increase in

Value Added Tax, the true trend was probably moving gently upwards.

The statisticians added that it was too early to guess whether the manufacturing economy would soon start to recover. But even if the strong output figure for July turned out to be a one-month aberration, the longer-term trends suggested the low-point of the manufacturing recession was probably reached in the second quarter. The index of manufacturing output, up to 113.8 in July from 112.9 in June, had ranged between 112.5 and 113 in the previous four months.

The index of industrial production, which includes energy output and manufacturing, advanced by only 0.1 per cent in July to 107.4. However, this weakness was due almost entirely to weather-related

variations in gas and electricity output and maintenance work on North Sea oil rigs. With the maintenance work largely over, North Sea output is likely to be considerably higher than in the second quarter. This will give a further boost to the figures for industrial production and gross domestic product in the third quarter.

However, Treasury officials said it was too early to tell whether the second quarter marked the bottom of the recession for the entire economy, as measured by the quarterly figures on gross domestic product. Privately, however, ministers appear more confident that the third quarter GDP figures to be published in mid-November may show a small rise, officially confirming the end of the recession. One reason for caution about the July manufacturing

figures was that the gains were due entirely to the chemical and motor industries. Other manufacturing industries showed virtually no growth between June and July. Figures on industrial productivity and unit costs yesterday showed that manufacturing productivity reached its low-point last November and reached a record in July. Since then and up to July, manufacturing output per man-hour has grown at an annual rate of 8.5 per cent. Manufacturers' unit labour costs fell 3 per cent between April and July. In July, manufacturing output per employee was 0.2 per cent higher than the pre-recession peak reached in May last year. Output per man-hour was 0.9 per cent above the record.

Comment, page 23

Hanson agrees £1.5bn deal to buy Beazer

By MATTHEW BOND

LORD Hanson has once again wrong-footed the stock market, this time by launching a £1.5 billion agreed takeover bid for Beazer, the debt-laden construction group.

Hanson's unexpected move for Beazer knocked 37p offICI shares - the chemicals conglomerate has been on bid alert since Hanson unveiled a 2.8 per cent stake in May. ICI's shares closed at £12.67, despite the message from Hanson that the bid for Beazer would not affect any plans it might have for ICI. Assuming the Beazer deal goes through, Hanson still has cash resources of £7 billion and facilities of between £10 billion and £15 billion.

Of the Beazer bid, Lord Hanson said: "Our long-term faith in the construction industry is bolstered by our belief that we have reached the bottom of its current cycle of recession and we look forward to developing Beazer's well-established businesses alongside our own."

days after Beazer reported a 43 per cent fall in pre-tax profits to £60.6 million.

Hanson is offering 123.5p for each Beazer share, valuing the company's ordinary share capital at £351.4 million, with 90p in cash and the balance as one new Hanson warrant. However, Beazer currently has over £1 billion of debt in its balance sheet, virtually all of which relates to its purchase of Koppers, the American aggregates group, bought for £960 million in 1988. One of the immediate savings for Hanson will be that its far higher credit rating will enable it to renegotiate this debt on more favourable terms.

After returning from suspension, Beazer's shares closed 32 1/2p up at 115 1/2p. Brian Beazer, the chairman, said he first learned that Hanson intended making an offer for Beazer on Friday evening, when he was still in America. However, discussion between the two companies had gone on for some weeks.

In recommending the bid, he said the highest consideration had been given to the position of Beazer shareholders. "Here is an offer which is 50 per cent above the market price and which offers shareholders a 60 per cent better earnings flow."

The bid comes just ten days before an extraordinary general meeting at which Beazer shareholders were to be asked to approve the sale of the company's British and European housebuilding and construction activities. Beazer was expected to receive between £450 million to £500 million for CHB, with the consideration being raised by a public flotation of CHB shares. A pathfinder prospectus was published on Friday.

The proceeds of the sale would have been used to reduce Beazer's debt, as required by the terms of a new agreement the company signed last week with its banks.

Terry Upsall, who was due to become chief executive of CHB once it had been sold off, found himself in the difficult position of voting himself out of a job. He said: "John Bennett and I support the decision of the board in recommending the Hanson offer, believing it to be in the best interests of our shareholders. While there is some disappointment that the flotation of CHB Group has been deferred, we are convinced the Hanson offer will present a sound platform for the future development of our business."

Despite Mr Upsall's use of the word deferred, Hanson is not expected to proceed with the CHB float, although the egm vote will go ahead.

Comment, page 23

Chairman looks for a Christmas bonus

EDWARD WEBB



Ratners slides £17.7m into red

By OUR CITY STAFF

RATNERS Group, the high street jeweller, has reported a pre-tax loss of £17.7 million for the six months to August 3, against a profit of £9.3 million for the same period last year.

In Britain, sales of £231.7 million were 7 per cent down, if discontinued businesses are stripped out. Gerald Ratner, the chairman, said this fall had everything to do with the economic recession and nothing to do with him this year describing, in jest, some of Ratner's products as "crap".

Others were not so convinced, pointing to an 11 per cent decline in sales at the Ratners shops, compared to a 7 per cent fall at H Samuel, also owned by Ratners. A trading loss of £11.7 million incurred by the group's British stores, was reduced by a £4.6 million profit from America, this despite a 6 per cent fall in sales at Kay Jewelers.

Mr Ratner would make no forecast about the outcome for the full year, but said that the company usually takes as much money in one week at Christmas as it does in the entire first quarter.

In the wake of the interim losses, analysts cut their forecasts heavily, to between £60 million and £70 million. That could see Ratners either paying an uncovered final dividend, or cutting its payout. An unchanged interim dividend of 2.4p is being paid. The shares fell 7p to 129p.

Defiant: Gerald Ratner yesterday, when he rejected personal blame for the decline

Tempus, page 24

Amstrad sues US supplier

AMSTRAD is suing Seagate Technology, one of its American suppliers, for a minimum of \$150 million for alleged financial loss and damage to the computer group's reputation (Angela Mackay writes).

Amstrad, chaired by Alan Sugar, has filed suit in the superior court of California, alleging that hard disc drives, which were manufactured by Seagate and fitted in Amstrad's PC2386 personal computer, were defective and had to be reworked by the American company in 1989-90.

Two months ago, Amstrad issued a profits warning and analysts are expecting pre-tax profits to slump from £43.7 million to around £16 million when full-year results are announced next month.

The group has underperformed the market index by 18 per cent over the past three months.

EC signals bigger fines

By PHILIP BASSETT
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

SIR Leon Brittan, the European commissioner for competition, has signalled a new regime of high fines against companies infringing anti-cartel regulations. He also announced new threshold levels under which proposed large corporate mergers would be handled by Brussels.

Speaking to the Centre for European Policy Studies in Brussels, Sir Leon said: "Serious violation of Community competition law will be punished by high fines."

At present, companies found guilty of infringing anti-cartel regulations can be fined up to 10 per cent of their previous year's turnover.

While a fine of 10 per cent of turnover may seem large, it may represent only a tiny fraction of a multi-product company's total turnover. And Sir Leon signalled that turnover-related fines may be more extensively applied to

companies making a number of products: "Multi-product industrial combines cannot safely think that they will continue to be treated more leniently if they engage in hard-core cartel activities."

The European Community intends that the tone of future fines should be set by the fine levied in July against Tetra-pak, a Swiss-Swedish drinks carton maker. The fine, of 75 million euros (about £52 million) was two-and-a-half times larger than anything the EC

had previously imposed, and thought to be the largest ever.

Sir Leon defended the EC's "dawn raids" against companies, saying the "smoking gun" evidence found during such investigations would never have been produced on a voluntary basis. He criticised the British government for failing so far to find parliamentary time to give the Office of Fair Trading the same powers as those of the EC.

Currently, merging companies with a combined turnover of more than Ecu5 billion and an EC turnover of Ecu250 million each have to be referred to Brussels. Sir Leon said he hoped "in due course" these thresholds would be reduced to Ecu2 billion and Ecu100 million respectively.

Sir Leon's proposals, which will be vigorously opposed by the British government, may be bargaining counters, with the real, achievable objective a threshold of Ecu3 billion already signalled by EC officials.



Sir Leon: "high fines"

Nissan flooded with job applications

By OUR INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

NISSAN, the Japanese car maker, advertised 1,000 new jobs at its plant in Sunderland, Tyne & Wear, just over a week ago. Today, the company expects to receive its 10,000th application.

The extraordinary rate of applications, averaging 1,000 a day, is exceeding even the deluge received when Nissan set up its manufacturing plant in 1986. In the first three days after the advertisements were placed in Jobcentres, 8,000 applications were received. The volume demonstrates the stability and growth offered by the Japanese company at a time when other car manufacturers are on short-time working. For instance, Nissan is currently working night and weekend overtime to satisfy European demand for the Primera model.

The huge number of applications also

shows the impact of high unemployment. Unemployment in Tyne and Wear is 12.1 per cent and has risen in the past year by more than 20 per cent. In Sunderland, 17,388 people are out of work - more than 2,500 up on a year ago. Most of the applications are through local Jobcentres. Nissan managers have been amused to note that, despite their number, the applications are being sent individually by Jobcentres, each with their own stamp.

Nissan will probably begin interviewing the first applicants next week. The 1,000 extra employees, mainly in manufacturing, are needed to produce its replacement model for the Micra hatchback next year.

Applicants will undergo general aptitude tests, including practical skills and line supervisors, rather than person-

nel staff, will be primarily responsible for interviewing and choosing the employees. Nissan wants to ensure that those selected will be able to work with existing teams, and to avoid the problem of on-the-line factory complaining about the personnel department's choices.

The company is keen to encourage women to apply, believing that, so far, women have been reluctant to apply for jobs in car plants, seeing them as largely male preserves.

Nissan expects to take on the first employees at the end of the year, rising to the full 1,000 next year.

Opening the letters is occupying virtually all the Nissan personnel department's time and the total number of applications is expected to be higher still.

British ingenuity, page 8

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Payout rises for Inchcape shareholders

By MICHAEL TATE, CITY EDITOR

SIR George Turnbull, chairman and chief executive of Inchcape, cheered shareholders in the motor-to-insurance group with a hike in the interim dividend from 4.8p to 5p, despite a profits downturn.

The pre-tax figure dipped from £55.8 million to £51.3 million in the first six months of this year, after a stronger point wiped a net £5.2 million off overseas earnings. Some observers had expected a steeper fall.

Earnings per share held steady at 14.5p, before taking into account extraordinary profits of £12.6 million, largely due to the sale of the group's Indian tea interests.

Despite recession in the UK, Inchcape's motor business remains comfortably its biggest money-spinner, clocking up £53.3 million around the world, against £61.9 million last time. The group has exclusive rights to distribute Toyotas in the UK; the marque's share of the market

has improved, and last month was as high as 2.75 per cent.

The Greek distributorship notched up record sales, and like the British, Belgian and Luxembourg operations expects a bigger market share once Toyota's Derby plant is in production at the end of next year.

Inchcape continues to look for expansion in Europe which, Sir George said, will become "the biggest market in the world".

Inchcape's consumer goods and industrial products businesses in the Far East showed good growth, he added, although Singapore experienced lower profits.

Bain Clarkson, the insurance division, increased profits again, from £13.8 million to £16 million. Some markets were weak but shipping and inspection services advanced. Trading conditions in many areas remain difficult, Sir George said, "but we expect to continue to prosper in the second half of the year".

Ransomes passes dividend

By MARTIN BARROW

RANSOMES, the maker of grass-cutting machinery, is passing its interim dividend after falling into the red in the first half of this year. The company also gave a warning that it will bear undisclosed extraordinary rationalisation costs for the full year.

After a 19 per cent drop in sales, the company incurred pre-tax losses of £770,000 (£7.47 million profit). Losses include an exceptional charge of £362,000 against redundancy costs. Ransomes shares, worth 102p a year ago, fell from 56p to 49p. Turnover fell from £94.7 million to £76.8 million because of weak demand in America, caused by recession, the Gulf war and the overhang of substantial stock levels arising from last year's drought.

Operating profits fell from £12.3 million to £4.5 million, which failed to cover interest charges of £4.93 million, marginally higher than last year's comparable charge of £4.82 million.

Holders of ordinary shares receive no dividend (2.05p), but payment of a preference dividend at a cost of £2.34 million left a retained loss of £3.84 million, against a surplus of £1.95 million last time.

Christies takes hammering

CHRIS HARRIS

By GEORGE SIVELL



David: digging into reserves to maintain dividend

CHRISTIE'S International's first-half profits collapsed because of a decline in the Impressionist and contemporary picture market. Christopher David, managing director, and the board are digging into their reserves to pay an unchanged interim dividend of 2.3p.

Profits dived from £40 million to £3 million in the first six months of this year, although the figure matched profits for the second half of last year. Sales fell from £105 million to £50 million, indicating the depth of recession in the art markets. Earnings fell from 13.59p to 0.98p a share.

The art market reached its peak in 1989 and early last year. Christie's says that although its traditional areas held up well, with sales of silver, Old Masters, jewellery and continental furniture, going well, its Impressionist and contemporary picture markets, which accounted for more than half of sales a year ago, fell sharply.

Cost-cutting continues. Overheads were down 28 per cent at the half year, and the Bournemouth office has since been closed. Christie's hopes the New York sale of the Tremaine collection of modern and contemporary art, in November, will raise £21 million or more.

Medeva pays maiden interim dividend

MEDEVA, the medical research and pharmaceuticals group, is paying a maiden interim dividend of 0.5p a share, after reporting interim pre-tax profits of £5.05 million (£522,000 million). Turnover was £33.2 million (£30.2 million) while earnings per share are 2.26p (0.48p). Bernard Taylor, chairman, said the group remained cash positive with no gearing. The profits include £282,000 of net interest receivable.

Mr Taylor, a former chief executive of Glaxo, said he was encouraged by the progress of the group's acquisitions and by the constant stream of new opportunities presenting themselves. Medeva is already one of Britain's top ten pharmaceutical suppliers. The share price, however, fell back 4p to 159p.

Torday repels Dowding bid

TORDAY & Carlisle, a specialist engineering company, has rejected a £13.8 million bid from Dowding & Mills. Paul Torday, the chairman, said the board would write to shareholders explaining why. The company's shares rose from 64p to 87p, against the Dowding & Mills share offer terms of 84p.

Scholes cuts its payout

SCHOLES Group, maker of electrical products, cut its final payout to 3.4p (5.22p), making 5p for the year to June 30 (7.82p). Pre-tax profits were £4.6 million (£6.2 million) after an exceptional £1.03 million charge for redundancies and rationalisation. Earnings were 8.5p a share, compared with 11.2p.

Lloyds nears success

LLOYDS Chemists is close to gaining control of Macarthy, the pharmaceuticals group, after securing acceptance in respect of 45 per cent of the company for its 301p cash-and-shares offer. The £83 million recommended bid, yet to be cleared by the Office of Fair Trading, has been extended until September 27. A rival £75 million offer from UniChem lapsed after being referred to the monopoly commission. Only Granpian Holdings, which bid £67 million, has received full clearance.

Tibbett rises to £6.3m

TIBBETT & Britten, the contract distributor to the retail trade, is surviving the recession well, increasing pre-tax profits to £6.3 million (£5.4 million) in the six months to end-June on sales up to £84 million (£72 million). The shares rose 5p to 500p. The half-year dividend rises to 3.4p (2.9p) on earnings of 12.3p (10.5p).

FII stumbles to £7.1m

PRE-TAX profits at FII, the footwear group, fell from £8.75 million to £7.1 million after an exceptional rationalisation charge of £750,000 in the year to end-May. Earnings were 33.5p (40.2p). A final dividend of 7.75p a share makes 12.75p (11.25p) for the year, while turnover rose to a record £80.3 million (£74.4 million).

Executive leaves BA

LIAM Strong, British Airways' marketing and operations director, leaves the airline in November to become chief executive of a retail group. He will be succeeded by Robert Ayling, BA's secretary and legal director. Mr Strong, aged 46, joined the airline three years ago. He revamped first-class, shuttle and economy-class services and devised "the world's biggest offer", on April 23, when passengers were flown for nothing.

Executive buy-in at tile firm

A GROUP of building industry executives has acquired control of Quilligott, the Stockport-based floor tile maker, and made an offer for the rest of the company, valuing it £8.41 million. Dr Roy Jenkins, who recently worked for NSM, heads a consortium that has acquired Riordan Industries' 66.1 per cent stake in Quilligott. The price was £5.55 million, or 29p a share, against a closing price of 33p on Friday. The new management intends to retain the company's USM quotation. The buy-in is backed by a group of institutions, including Edinburgh Fund Managers, which has 13.4 per cent of Quilligott, and Equitable Life, with 12.8 per cent. In Quilligott's last financial year, pre-tax profit fell from £2.07 million to £905,000.

Yorkshire Electricity chief to go

JAMES Porteous, chairman and chief executive of Yorkshire Electricity, allied ill feeling over his 168 per cent pay rise by announcing his impending retirement. Angry shareholders had threatened to make sparks fly at the company's annual meeting in Harrogate, but they were disarmed when Dr Porteous, whose pay soared from £68,000 to £183,000 a year, said he would go in January. His successor will be John Tysoe, the current managing director. Dr Porteous, who will be 65 in December, reported pre-tax profit of £134 million on turnover of £1.26 billion — 16 per cent up on the forecast in the privatisation prospectus. He said Yorkshire Electricity had "established an excellent track record".

British Gas introduces changes to the Long Term Interruptible Schedule for its Contract Gas Customers

The Schedule below, Ref. LT13, has been produced by British Gas and supersedes Schedule LT12 in respect of all Long Term Interruptible Gas contracts entered into from 17th September 1991. Copies of this Schedule are available from the Registered Office or Regional Head Offices of British Gas plc.

BRITISH GAS plc. CONTRACT GAS PRICING SCHEDULE LONG TERM INTERRUPTIBLE GAS			
Effective: 17th September 1991			
REF: LT13			
(i) Introduction			
This Schedule LT13 supersedes Schedule LT12 in respect of all Long Term Interruptible Gas contracts entered into from 17th September 1991.			
Under Section 14(4) of the Gas Act 1986 British Gas may enter into special agreements (contracts) with Customers for the supply of gas through pipes to premises which they own or occupy on the terms and conditions shown in this Schedule subject to the conditions of a standard contract entitled "Special Agreement for the Supply of Gas: Long Term Interruptible Gas". British Gas reserves its position as to whether to enter into contracts where it considers that to do so is not consistent with its overall duties under Section 9(1) of the Gas Act 1986. The prices and terms shown do not apply to back-up gas or to the other forms of supply identified in Condition 5 of British Gas Authorisation.			
Copies of this Schedule and conditions of contract are available from the Registered Office or Regional Head Offices of British Gas plc.			
(ii) Standard Terms of a Long Term Interruptible Gas Contract:			
Gas will be supplied under a standard contract, on the basis that the supply is taken for not less than 10 and not more than 15 Contract Years to a Customer wishing to consume gas at premises in its ownership or occupation at which its Nominated Consumption of gas must be in excess of 50 million therms per Contract Year at the premises. Each Customer (including its affiliate companies) see note 10) is limited to a maximum of 525 million therms Nominated Consumption in aggregate under this Schedule and any previous Long Term Interruptible schedules, which is equivalent to a maximum actual consumption of 666 million therms.			
The earliest start date is 1 July 1995 and the latest start date is 30 June 1996 (see note 3).			
Under the standard contract terms the supply of gas will be interruptible for a minimum period of 7 days (see note 8) and a maximum period of 45 days in each Contract Year. The periods of interruption, which will occur at British Gas' discretion, may or may not be continuous.			
The Basic Scheduled Reference Price for all quantities of gas consumed under a Long Term Interruptible Gas contract will vary in accordance with the specific type of escalation terms chosen by the Customer. These choices are set out in Table 1.			

TABLE 1 LONG TERM INTERRUPTIBLE GAS			
ESCALATION TYPE	A	B	C
INDEXATION	15 Gas Oil 15 Heavy Fuel Oil 35 PFI 35 Electricity or Coal	20 Gas Oil 20 Heavy Fuel Oil 25 PFI 30 Electricity or Coal	25 Gas Oil 25 Heavy Fuel Oil 25 PFI 25 Electricity or Coal
BASIC SCHEDULED REFERENCE PRICE (pence per therm)			
	20.50	19.80	19.60

(iii) Optional terms for a Long Term Interruptible Gas contract:
The following options are available in respect of which the Basic Scheduled Reference Price will be modified by the amount stated.

(a) Restricted Interruption Option.
Whilst still retaining a maximum period of 45 days interruption in a Contract Year, the facility is offered to restrict periods of interruption to a maximum of 15 days in any continuous period of 30 days. The charges for this alternative are set out in Table 2.

TABLE 2 ADDITIONAL CHARGE FOR RESTRICTED INTERRUPTION			
ESCALATION TYPE	A	B	C
ADDITION TO BASIC SCHEDULED REFERENCE PRICE (p/therm)	0.5	0.5	0.5

(b) Price Phasing Option
Provided the resulting price does not fall below 18.6 pence per therm, the Basic Scheduled Reference Price (Table 1) or its Restricted Interruption alternative (Table 2) may be modified by the pence per therm figures set out below or by any proportion of those pence per therm figures.

TABLE 3 PHASING MODIFICATIONS TO PRICE (p/therm)											
CONTRACT YEARS	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11-15
OPTION(1)	-1.5	-1.5	-1.5	-1.5	0	+1.31	+1.31	+1.31	+1.31	+1.31	BASIC PRICE
OPTION(2)	-1.25	-1.25	-1.25	-1.25	-1.25	+1.50	+1.50	+1.50	+1.50	+1.50	BASIC PRICE

Appropriate proportions of the financial amounts arising from the application of such price phasing will be repayable to British Gas in the event of termination within the first ten Contract Years.

(iv) Price reduction for gas consumed in excess of 125 million therms per contract year.
Customers who have taken more than 125 million therms at any one premises under this Schedule in a period of one Contract Year will be given a reduction on the Basic Scheduled Reference Price including, if applicable, the options referred to in (iii) above, for gas consumed in excess of 125 million therms in that period. See Table 4 in next column.

TABLE 4 PRICE REDUCTIONS FOR EACH INCREMENTAL TRANCHE OF GAS CONSUMED IN A LONG TERM INTERRUPTIBLE CONTRACT		
TRANCHE	THERMS CONSUMED IN A CONTRACT YEAR	PERCENTAGE REDUCTION FOR EACH TRANCHE OF GAS CONSUMED
1	1 to 125,000,000	Nil
2	125,000,001 to 200,000,000	0.25
3	200,000,001 to 300,000,000	0.50
4	300,000,001 to 400,000,000	0.75
5	400,000,001 and thereafter	1.00

(v) Notes
1. Conditions of Contract
The notes given in this Schedule summarise elements of the standard conditions of a Long Term Interruptible Gas contract and the way in which they will be applied. They are not exhaustive and cannot take precedence over, or modify, any of the terms or conditions of the standard contract entered into by any individual Customer.

2. Annual Nominated Quantity of Gas
An annual nominated quantity of gas may be fixed for each Contract Year by the Customer within the range of plus or minus 15% of the Nominated Consumption, except that in the first Contract Year the range will be plus 15%/minus 30% of the Nominated Consumption. The Customer shall take at least, or make a minimum payment for gas equivalent to, 70% of this annual nominated quantity. If the supply has been interrupted at the discretion of British Gas, then an allowance will be given for the days interrupted in ascertaining the annual consumption for the purpose of minimum payment calculations.

3. Start Date
The Start Date is the date from which the Contract Years will run and the minimum payment obligations will apply, although British Gas and the Customer may agree that gas for commissioning may be taken prior to the Start Date.

4. Customer's Financial Status
Potential Customers will be required to evidence, prior to or within 6 months of signing the contract, to the reasonable satisfaction of British Gas that they have the financial capability to meet their contractual payment, indemnity and other obligations so as to sustain a Long Term Interruptible Gas contract. Evidence of satisfactory progress on associated planning, engineering and commercial agreements will be required before initial signing.

5. Pressure
The pressures at which British Gas supplies gas vary at different parts of the gas supply system. British Gas will supply gas to a Customer at a pressure above the statutory minimum level if this is available at the point of supply. For pressures up to 35 bar British Gas will use reasonable endeavours to maintain any such elevated pressure. If British Gas expects the supply pressure to reduce to a lower level permanently then not less than 36 months' written notice will be given.

6. Price of Gas
Under the contract the mechanism for determining the price of gas, in accordance with the specific escalation terms selected by the customer, shall be set out in a price indexation formula utilising indices which give effect to these escalation terms. Prices are Quarter 1 1990 prices.

7. Revisions of Terms
The prices and other terms shown in this Schedule may be modified at the discretion of British Gas. These prices and other terms will not be altered within 28 days of any previous alteration without the consent of the Director General of Gas Supply (Ofgas). Customers should note that alterations to the prices and other terms may be put into effect immediately upon notification by British Gas. However, such alterations will not have effect on Customers who have entered into a contract under this Schedule prior to such modification.

8. Interruption
The aggregate period of interruption over the 10 to 15 Contract Years will be not more than 300 days. Without prejudice to the rights of British Gas to interrupt supplies of gas provided in accordance with this Schedule, the requirement for a minimum period of interruption shall be deemed to have been suspended unless and until at least three months have expired from the giving by British Gas of notice under the contract with the Customer of its intention to implement such minimum period of interruption.

9. Taxation
The prices in this Schedule are exclusive of Value Added Tax or any other tax, duty or impost.

10. Affiliate Companies
For the purposes of determining maximum actual consumptions under this LT13 Schedule "Affiliate" means: (a) any holding company or subsidiary company of the Customer or any company which is a subsidiary of such a holding company and the expressions "holding company" and "subsidiary company" shall have the meaning specified in Section 736 of the Companies Act 1985 (except that the words "a majority of" in Section 736(1) (a), (b) and (c) shall be replaced with the words "90 per cent or more of") or (b) any company which controls a Customer or any company which is subject to control by a company which also controls a Customer using the definition of control set out in Section 416(2) (a), (b) and (c) of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988 (except that the words "the greater part of" in those Sections 416(2), (a) (b) and (c) shall be replaced with the words "50 per cent or more of").

British Gas

COMPANY BRIEFS	
GABICCI (Fin) Pre-tax: £1.43m (£1.35m) EPS: 9.5p (7.9p) Div: 2.85p, nkg 4.25p	Last year's dividend was 4p. Sales held steady at £24.45m, compared with £25.05m. Exports continue to rise. Company has nil gearing.
THOMPSON CLIVE INV Pre-tax: £354,000 EPS: 2.05p (1.91p) Div: Nil (nil)	Interim. Profits last time were £365,000. Net asset value slipped from 172p a share to 166.7p. Trust invested £272,000 since June 30.
OLIVES HOLDINGS (Int) Pre-tax: £534,348 EPS: 4.96p (2.29p) Div: 3p (3p)	Profits last time were £280,754. Turnover £1.48m, against £2.55m. Large development in Bristol is per cent complete.
HUNTLEIGH TECH (Int) Pre-tax: £552,000 EPS: 7.02p (5.10p) Div: 1.75p (1.25p)	Profits last time were £584,000. Company expects record profits for full year, with gearing below 40 per cent at year-end.
QUICKS GROUP (Int) Pre-tax: £350,000 EPS: 1.8p (7.2p) Div: 1p (2p)	Profits last time £1.6m. Sales fell to £107.1m (£125.8m). Depressed demand continues. Group managing director to be named soon.
LOPEX (Int) Pre-tax: £918,000 loss EPS: 4.1p loss Div: Nil (2.90p)	Profits last time were £3.41m and earnings were 7.87p a share. Group expects to be in profit at year-end. Extraordinary charge of £1.22m.
RUSSELL (ALEX) (Int) Pre-tax: £908,000 EPS: 1.4p (2.24p) Div: 1p (1p)	Profits last time were £1.29m. Sales £18.18m (£18.8m). Second half made stronger start helped by new roof the plant at Burton on Trent.
FBD HOLDINGS (Int) Pre-tax: £24.43m EPS: 8.17p (5.02p) Div: 1.6p (1.3p)	Profits last time were £23.88m. Turnover increased from £232m to £36.4m. Despite economic climate further progress is expected.

THE LATEST...
FOREX RATES
0898 14 18 17
STOCK MARKET SUMMARY
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IRN NEWS UPDATE
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CITYCALL

سكدا من الاجل

WALL STREET

New York - Shares made modest gains in very thin trading. Ricky Harrington, of Marion Bass Securities, said the rally was technical due to an oversold position on Friday. The Dow Jones industrial

average was 10.06 points up by mid-morning at 2,995.75. **Hong Kong** - Prices fell in dull trading. The Hang Seng index lost 20.59 to 3,953.53. The Tokyo market was closed for a public holiday. (Reuter)

Index	16 Sep	15 Sep	14 Sep	13 Sep
Dow Jones	2995.75	2985.75	2975.75	2965.75
S&P 500	225.12	224.12	223.12	222.12
Nikkei	12,111.95	12,101.95	12,091.95	12,081.95
Hang Seng	3,953.53	3,974.12	3,994.71	4,015.30
FTSE 100	2,995.75	2,985.75	2,975.75	2,965.75

Morgan Crucible rises 7% despite difficult trading

By MARTIN BARROW

MORGAN Crucible, the industrial materials group that raised £96 million through a rights issue in April, said first-half profits rose 7 per cent, despite difficult trading conditions, aided by acquisitions. In the six months to end-June, pre-tax profits were £28.5 million, compared with £26.6 million, with three out of four divisions achieving higher earnings. The interim dividend is increased from an adjusted 5.49p a share to 5.75p, payable from earnings of 10.2p a share, fully diluted, against 11.7p. Group turnover increased from £284 million to £310 million, of which only 18 per cent was attributable to Britain. Overall gross margins were maintained at least year's levels, despite weak demand in consumer, automotive and industrial areas. The carbon division held profits at £9.3 million on turnover of £57.3 million, compared with £56.1 million. Acquisitions completed last year helped thermal ceramics to return higher profits of £11.7 million, against £10.8 million, after an increase in sales from £86.9 million to £101.9 million. Speciality materials and technologies, a new division, earned £9.4 million on sales of £93 million. In the first half of last year, the businesses that form this division contributed £8.6 million from sales of £89.1 million. Net finance charges were reduced from £9.1 million to £7.4 million as gearing fell from 60 per cent to less than 25 per cent. Acquisitions in America and Australasia, worth £14 million, have taken place since the rights issue. Bruce Farmer, the managing director, said he expected total expenditure on acquisitions to rise to £50 million by the year-end, taking gearing to 32 per cent, with the rest of the rights issue funds being spent in the following financial year. The company has charged £3 million as an extraordinary item against the sale or closure of two subsidiaries, including one in Britain. Dr Farmer described current trading conditions as difficult, with little indication of an upturn in Britain or Australasia.



No upturn foreseen: Bruce Farmer, managing director

Hongkong Land advances 13.7%

From LULU YU IN HONG KONG

HONGKONG Land Holdings, the property arm of Jardine Matheson, announced a 13.7 per cent rise in net profits to US\$147.3 million for the six months to end-June. Earnings were boosted further by an extraordinary gain of \$40.4 million from the sale of retail space in the colony. Earnings rose 12.7 per cent to 5.75 cents a share, and an interim dividend of 2.85 cents per share, up 3.6 per cent, will be paid.

Simon Keswick, the chairman, said profit for the full year was unlikely to grow as much as in the first half, but would still exceed 1990's record figure of \$268 million. The firm's operating profit increased 6 per cent from \$174.8 million to \$185.6 million, while finance charges dropped from \$28 million to \$20 million. Despite a weakening office rental market, Hongkong Land achieved an occupancy rate of more than 96 per cent for its commercial and retail portfolio. The board said retail sales had declined slightly as the current cycle drew to a close. The group has been trimming its non-core properties and focusing on prestige buildings in the Central business district. Its latest development, involving 362,000 sq ft of office space, is scheduled for completion by the end of the year.

Sales slump holds back Irish Life

By NEIL BENNETT

NEW business at Irish Life stagnated at Ir£163 million (£149 million) in the first half of the year due to a slump in sales of investment products. In its first figures since privatisation, the Irish Republic's largest life assurance group said half-year premium income rose Ir£24.5 million to Ir£325 million. Though sales of single premium products slumped 32 per cent to Ir£67.9 million, the group increased its market share during a downturn in the sector. Conor McCarthy, chairman, said he expected the group to meet the earnings forecast in its offer document of Ir£117 million for the year.

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FTSE 100 VOLUMES

Vol '000	Vol '000	Vol '000	Vol '000
Abbey Nat 1,144	CU 1,258	Lombard 708	Royal Ind 1,737
Adia 871	CU 325	Lucas 638	Sainsbury 1,059
Anglian 84	Courtauld 843	M&S 2,786	Scott & N 2,328
ASDA 2,023	Enterprise 843	Maxwell 547	Scott Power 1,841
AS Foods 498	Harland 324	MEPC 1,855	Seas 2,353
Argyll 1,482	Peacocks 2,486	Midland 3,380	Servint Trm 738
Arjo Wagg 414	Porta 2,882	Nail Power 1,208	Shall 3,338
B&W 1,477	Porta 181	N W West 2,773	Smith & N 704
BET 821	GEO 3,825	P&O 1,128	SK Beach 922
BTR 4,429	Glen 2,307	P&O 1,128	Sun Alliance 1,211
BAT 3,387	Grand Met 2,701	Pearson 402	Tarmac 1,258
Barclays 1,709	GLS 'A' 31	P&O 1,128	Tate Lyle 1,200
B&S 149	GSE 4,204	PowerGen 1,083	T&S 3,011
B&S 811	Guinness 2,558	Prudential 1,247	Thames 431
Blue Circle 1,080	Harland 26,158	RAC 282	Thomson 808
BOC 280	Hawthorn 942	Radcliff 1,327	Thomson 4,070
Boots 1,283	Hitachi 3,078	Reed 1,882	Unilever 1,577
Br Aero 787	Inchcape 582	Reed 1,882	Unilever 1,577
Br Airways 1,888	Kingfisher 252	Reed 1,882	Unilever 1,577
Br Gas 2,380	Lamco 2,381	Reed 1,882	Unilever 1,577
Br Petrol 5,070	Ladbroke 1,211	RTZ 3,101	Wellcome 182
Br Steel 9,988	Land Sec 548	Royce 4,519	Whitbread 1,880
Br Telecom 2,708	Lloyds 1,510	Royce 4,519	Whitbread 1,880
C&W 1,382		Royce 4,519	Whitbread 1,880

RECENT ISSUES

Equities	Value	Value	Value
Aberlath Split (100p)	107 +1	Kainworth High Inc	107
Airbreak Ltd	38 +2	Lowlands Lambert (250p)	315 -2
Alliance Real	18	Manchester Utd (35p)	285
Capital Ventures	110	Mirror Group (125p)	95 -2
Clarendon Gms (175p)	187	Moorgate Simr Coo (100p)	110 +1
Contra-Cyclist (100p)	109	Oryx Gold	137
Courtyr Strk Inv	95	Simpson of Cornth	48
Culver Hdg (4p)	5 -1	Starling Tat	49 +3
Drayton Blue Chip (100p)	68	Tollgate	110
EPH Inc Tel (50p)	68	Trio Inv Tat (50p)	44
East Germany Inv (100p)	120	US Smaller	106
Electrocomp (225p)	25		
Fleming Emery Mkt	99 -1		
Gartmore Inc (100p)	110		
Gartmore Cap (100p)	87		
Gartmore Inc (100p)	103		
Greencom	217		
Headline Book (100p)	129		

MAJOR INDICES

Index	Value	Change
New York	2994.63	(+8.94)
Dow Jones	2995.75	(+10.06)
S&P Composite	225.12	(+0.20)
Tokyo	12,111.95	(-10.06)
Nikkei Average	12,111.95	(-10.06)
Hong Kong	3,953.53	(-20.59)
Hang Seng	3,953.53	(-20.59)
FTSE 100	2,995.75	(+10.06)
Amsterdam	1,111.95	(-4.70)
CBS Tendency	92.1	(-0.2)
Sydney: AO	1,557.1	(-7.7)
Frankfurt: DAX	1,623.75	(-7.7)

TRADITIONAL OPTIONS

First Dealings	Last Dealings	Last Dealings	For Settlement
September 5	September 5	September 5	September 5
Call options were taken out on 15/9/91	Call options were taken out on 15/9/91	Call options were taken out on 15/9/91	Call options were taken out on 15/9/91
Options: National Home Loans, P&O W&S, Royal Electronics, Telemark, Palmco, Palmco Group, Scottish Heritage.			

THE TIMES

RENTALS

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Exchange index compared with 1985 was down at \$1.0 (day's range \$1.0-91.1).

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Unit Rates for Sept 16	Close	1 month	3 month
Argentina austral	3,250.0-3,311.2	3,250.0-3,289.7	3-1/2% 9-1/2%
Australia	89.94-90.82	89.94-90.82	9-1/2% 9-1/2%
Belgium	11,232.11-2,394.1	11,232.11-2,394.1	1-1/2% 1-1/2%
Canada	1,000.0-1,000.0	1,000.0-1,000.0	9-1/2% 9-1/2%
Denmark	21,291.1-2,574.1	21,291.1-2,574.1	9-1/2% 9-1/2%
France	1,000.0-1,000.0	1,000.0-1,000.0	9-1/2% 9-1/2%
Germany	248.36-252.52	248.36-252.52	37-1/4% 200-275.00
Greece	1,000.0-1,000.0	1,000.0-1,000.0	9-1/2% 9-1/2%
Italy	217.8-219.94	217.8-219.94	1-1/2% 1-1/2%
Japan	1,000.0-1,000.0	1,000.0-1,000.0	9-1/2% 9-1/2%
Netherlands	1,000.0-1,000.0	1,000.0-1,000.0	9-1/2% 9-1/2%
New York	1,000.0-1,000.0	1,000.0-1,000.0	9-1/2% 9-1/2%
Portugal	1,000.0-1,000.0	1,000.0-1,000.0	9-1/2% 9-1/2%
Spain	1,000.0-1,000.0	1,000.0-1,000.0	9-1/2% 9-1/2%
Sweden	1,000.0-1,000.0	1,000.0-1,000.0	9-1/2% 9-1/2%
Switzerland	1,000.0-1,000.0	1,000.0-1,000.0	9-1/2% 9-1/2%
Taiwan	1,000.0-1,000.0	1,000.0-1,000.0	9-1/2% 9-1/2%
Thailand	1,000.0-1,000.0	1,000.0-1,000.0	9-1/2% 9-1/2%
UK	1,000.0-1,000.0	1,000.0-1,000.0	9-1/2% 9-1/2%
US Dollar	1,000.0-1,000.0	1,000.0-1,000.0	9-1/2% 9-1/2%
Yen	1,000.0-1,000.0	1,000.0-1,000.0	9-1/2% 9-1/2%

MONEY RATES (%)

Rate	1 month	3 month	6 month	12 month
Clearing Banks 10%	10%	10%	10%	10%
Finance House 11%	11%	11%	11%	11%
Low 10%	10%	10%	10%	10%
Weak 10%	10%	10%	10%	10%
Strong 10%	10%	10%	10%	10%

Rate	1 month	3 month	6 month	12 month
Clearing Banks 10%	10%	10%	10%	10%
Finance House 11%	11%	11%	11%	11%
Low 10%	10%	10%	10%	10%
Weak 10%	10%	10%	10%	10%
Strong 10%	10%	10%	10%	10%

Rate	1 month	3 month	6 month	12 month
Clearing Banks 10%	10%	10%	10%	10%
Finance House 11%	11%	11%	11%	11%
Low 10%	10%	10%	10%	10%
Weak 10%	10%	10%	10%	10%
Strong 10%	10%	10%	10%	10%

Rate	1 month	3 month	6 month	12 month
Clearing Banks 10%	10%	10%	10%	10%
Finance House 11%	11%	11%	11%	11%
Low 10%	10%	10%	10%	10%
Weak 10%	10%	10%	10%	10%
Strong 10%	10%	10%	10%	10%

Rate	1 month	3 month	6 month	12 month
Clearing Banks 10%	10%	10%	10%	10%
Finance House 11%	11%	11%	11%	11%
Low 10%	10%	10%	10%	10%
Weak 10%	10%	10%	10%	10%
Strong 10%	10%	10%	10%	10%

Rate	1 month	3 month	6 month	12 month
Clearing Banks 10%	10%	10%	10%	10%
Finance House 11%	11%	11%	11%	11%
Low 10%	10%	10%	10%	10%
Weak 10%	10%	10%	10%	10%
Strong 10%	10%	10%	10%	10%

Rate	1 month	3 month	6 month	12 month
Clearing Banks 10%	10%	10%	10%	10%
Finance House 11%	11%	11%	11%	11%
Low 10%	10%	10%	10%	10%
Weak 10%	10%	10%	10%	10%
Strong 10%	10%	10%	10%	10%

OTHER STERLING RATES

Argentina austral	17,915.1-17,915.1
Australia	1,000.0-1,000.0
Belgium	1,000.0-1,000.0
Canada	1,000.0-1,000.0
Denmark	1,000.0-1,000.0
France	1,000.0-1,000.0
Germany	1,000.0-1,000.0
Italy	1,000.0-1,000.0

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Portfolio PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily dividend figure. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the daily prize money stated. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Gross	Cash or
1	Leeds	Tenants	
2	Brake Bros	Foods	
3	TL	Industrials S-Z	
4	Unigate	Foods	
5	MB Carston	Industrials L-R	
6	Marston Thompson	Breweries	
7	Hunterprint	Paper, Print, Adv	
8	Land Sec	Property	
9	Racal Elec	Electricals	
10	Cornwall Park 'A'	Industrials A-D	
11	Bullough	Industrials A-D	
12	Wolfeley	Industrials S-Z	
13	Dalry	Foods	
14	Q&M Motors	Motors, Aircraft	
15	Powerscreen	Industrials L-R	
16	Hawthick Europe	Industrials S-Z	
17	Wood (SW)	Industrials A-D	
18	Brown PLC	Building, Roads	
19	Cherwell Group	Industrials A-D	
20	EC Group	Industrials E-K	
21	Fairly Group	Industrials E-K	
22	Rugby Group	Building, Roads	
23	Perry Gp	Motors, Aircraft	
24	Tibbet & Britten	Transport	
25	TVS	Leisure	
26	Plaxton Group	Motors, Aircraft	
27	Armour	Industrials A-D	
28	Polen	Electricals	
29	Marbridge Brick	Building, Roads	
30	S & U Stores	Drugs, Stores	
31	King & Shagan	Bank, Discount	
32	Security Serv	Industrials S-Z	
33	Renold	Industrials L-R	
34	Cresco	Industrials A-D	
35	Honda Motor	Motors, Aircraft	
36	Avon Rubber	Industrials A-D	
37	Getstener	Industrials E-K	
38	Coconair	Industrials A-D	
39	Warminster	Industrials S-Z	
40	Quicks Group	Motors, Aircraft	
41	Gold Greenless	Paper, Print, Adv	
42	Tridinger H	Industrials S-Z	
43	Mucklow (A&J)	Property	
44	Kwik-Fit	Motors, Aircraft	

© Times Newspapers Ltd. Daily Total

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend						
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £20,000 in Saturday's newspaper.						
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	Weekly Total

Mr Ian Shaylor, of Amersham, Buckinghamshire, was the winner of yesterday's £6,000 Portfolio Platinum prize.

BRITISH FUNDS

1990/91 High Low Back Price Change % Chg

SHORTS (Under Five Years)	Price	Change	% Chg
100% 100% 100%	100%	100%	100%

100% 100% 100%	100%	100%	100%
----------------	------	------	------

100% 100% 100%	100%	100%	100%
----------------	------	------	------

100% 100% 100%	100%	100%	100%
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100% 100% 100%	100%	100%	100%
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100% 100% 100%	100%	100%	100%
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100% 100% 100%	100%	100%	100%
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100% 100% 100%	100%	100%	100%
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100% 100% 100%	100%	100%	100%
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100% 100% 100%	100%	100%	100%
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100% 100% 100%	100%	100%	100%
----------------	------	------	------

100% 100% 100%	100%	100%	100%
----------------	------	------	------

100% 100% 100%	100%	100%	100%
----------------	------	------	------

100% 100% 100%	100%	100%	100%
----------------	------	------	------

100% 100% 100%	100%	100%	100%
----------------	------	------	------

100% 100% 100%	100%	100%	100%
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STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Weak start to account

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began yesterday. Dealings end September 27. Contango day September 30. Settlement day October 7.

Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

BREWERIES

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	% Chg	P/E
120.00	119.00	Adnams	119.50	+0.50	+0.4%	12.5

BUILDING, ROADS

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	% Chg	P/E
120.00	119.00	Adnams	119.50	+0.50	+0.4%	12.5

ELECTRICITY

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	% Chg	P/E
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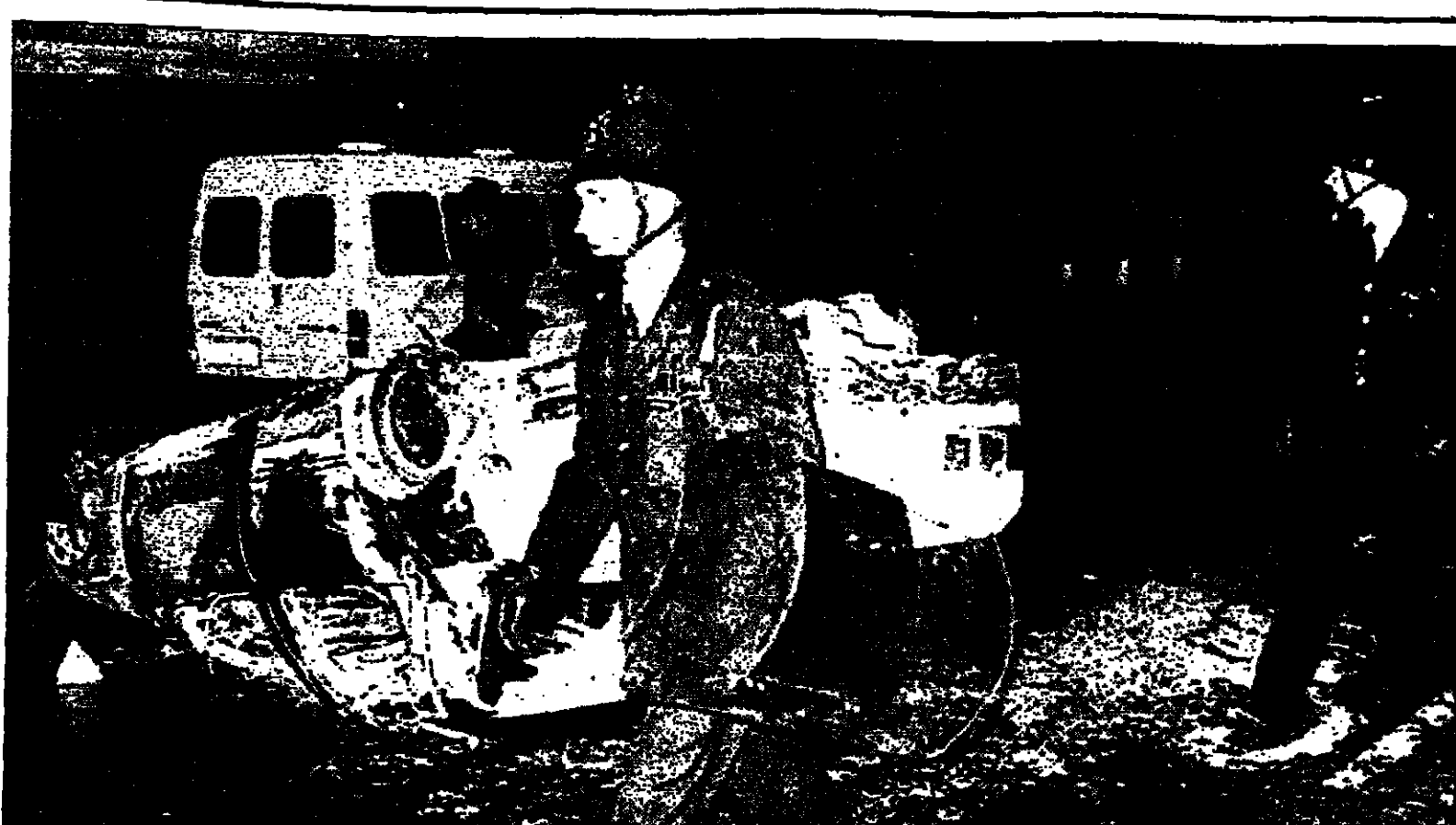
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LAW TIMES

THE TIMES TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 17 1991



The summer of riots: police are having to curb many law-breakers who are committing offences while on bail from the courts

Curbing the bail bandits

Rioters who are bailed by lenient magistrates and then do the same thing the next night are good news copy at present. Figures from Avon and Somerset and Northumbria police show that more than 50 per cent of those bailed will commit similar offences while on bail. Why this is happening is the first question asked by the press and public. How it can be stopped is the second.

There are many reasons. Often, the information given by the police to the Crown Prosecution Service about the defendant's record is up to a year out of date. The magistrates never get the full picture. Even if they do, because 1,700 prisoners are in police cells instead of jail, they are under pressure to bail defendants if at all possible.

The real problem is the length of time between arrest and sentence in the magistrates' courts, let alone the crown courts. Last month, dates for a two-hour hearing in Liverpool city court were being fixed for March. In London recently, a determined defendant with a little help from the system, has been able to spin out a case for almost a year before sentence.

If a defendant is charged with one or 21 cases of driving while disqualified, or of taking a motor vehicle

Court delays allow criminals to commit further offences, James Morton writes

without the owner's consent, or of committing criminal damage less than £2,000, the maximum sentence available to a magistrates' court dealing with all the cases on the same day—good sentencing practice—is 12 months. It is small wonder that additional offences are committed while on bail.

Quite apart from the damage to people and property, the delays are wasteful in time and money. Lawyers who practised in the 1960s will remember that the delay between arrest and the hearing of a contested case in a London magistrates' court was the time it took for the stipendiary to work through the rest of the morning list. At the quarter sessions or the Central Criminal Court, cases took two or three weeks to be heard, not three or more months.

Defendants rightly now have more legal representation. There is the Crown Prosecution Service to filter cases. Defendants may now see the nuts and bolts of the prosecution's case before deciding whether to have

the matter heard before magistrates or a jury. If they choose trial by jury in London, the case can be remanded for six or more weeks before a rubber-stamp committal is heard.

The answer to these delays and all the expense must surely be the abolition of committal proceedings. They had value when magistrates were expected to sift evidence and decide whether the prosecution had a prima facie case. Now that more than half the crown court acquittals come from the judge's direction or from the Crown Prosecution Service offering no evidence, the filter has obviously become clogged. Magistrates no longer hear full committals regularly enough to be able to make a decision to discharge the defendant. Indeed, the Court of Appeal's decisions have led to the emasculation of the committal.

The prosecution need only produce what evidence it thinks is the minimum, the defence must not ask fishing questions and the magistrates must commit on even the slightest

evidence. Committals, whether short-form or where evidence is oral, have become a waste of time.

A complete procedure change is needed. In cases that can be dealt with only on indictment, such as robbery or murder, magistrates should decide on bail on the first hearing and remit the case to the crown court. The same should happen once magistrates have declined jurisdiction in such cases as house-breaking or where the defendant has chosen jury trial. That does not stop the defendant challenging the evidence in a pre-trial crown court review or renewing a bail application. If the Crown Prosecution Service does not deliver papers in time, the defendant can be discharged.

The parties will be unable to take the liberties they can with lay magistrates and the time saved for everybody will be immense. The magistrates' courts should again become places where justice is summary and not delayed. There will not be the endless weeks on bail in which offences can be committed, and I suspect defendants may think twice before re-offending if they have to explain their behaviour to a judge.

● The author is the editor of the New Law Journal

What to tell the 'hostile' prisoner?

FIFTY years ago tomorrow, the Appellate Committee of the House of Lords began to hear one of Britain's most important, and controversial, administrative law cases: *Liversidge v Anderson*. In 1979, Lord Diplock concluded that "the time has come to acknowledge openly" that the 1941 decision was "expediently and, at that time, perhaps, excusably wrong", and Lord Scarman said: "The ghost of *Liversidge v Anderson* need no longer haunt the law." Nevertheless, the case retains its capacity to surprise and inform.

Mr Liversidge was detained in Brixton prison under the Defence (General) Regulations 1939 by order of Sir John Anderson, the home secretary. The regulations empowered the minister to detain any person who he had "reasonable cause to believe" was "of hostile origin or associations" or was involved in "acts prejudicial to the public safety or the defence of the realm". Mr Liversidge issued a writ claiming unlawful detention and seeking damages for false imprisonment. He applied for an order requiring the home secretary to explain the grounds for his detention. The majority of the House of Lords dismissed Mr Liversidge's application. They concluded that the minister had "reasonable cause to believe" Mr Liversidge was a public danger. In his powerful dissenting speech, Lord Atkin pointed out that Parliament required the home secretary to have more than a subjective belief that Mr Liversidge should be detained. He had to have "reasonable cause" so to believe and the court had a role in assessing whether the belief was a reasonable one.

There was, he suggested, "only one authority which might justify" the "fantastic" approach adopted by the majority: he quoted Humpty Dumpty explaining in *Alice Through the Looking Glass* that when he uses a word "it means just what I choose it to mean, neither more nor less". Lord Atkin criticised judges who "show themselves more executive-minded than the executive". No doubt to the embarrassment of counsel for the Crown — Sir Donald Somervell, the Attorney-General — Lord Atkin complained he had "listened to arguments which might have been addressed acceptably to the Court of King's Bench in the time of Charles I".

Hard cases not only make bad law. They can also create bad feeling between judges. Professor R.F.V. Heuston discovered that Lord Chancellor Simon had seen an advance copy of Lord Atkin's dissenting speech. Lord Atkin resisted Lord Simon's

attempt to censor the more caustic remarks. Lord Simon had said: "My eye catches your very amusing citation from Lewis Carroll... I am all in favour of enlivening judgments with literary allusion, but..."

Lord Atkin's biographer, Geoffrey Lewis, records that after the judgment Lord Atkin and his daughter were ostracised by his colleagues, who declined to lunch with them. Lord Maugham, who had presided at the hearing, wrote a letter to *The Times* criticising the "offensive" language used by Lord Atkin in his dissent. In his study of the Law Lords, Professor Robert Stevens noted that many thought Lord Atkin "never really recovered from this treatment before his death in 1944".

As Lord Macmillan observed in his judgment, the legal argument in *Liversidge v Anderson* was heard at a time when "the life of the whole nation (was) at stake". The English legal system deserves credit for the fact that in the darkest days of the war an individual could have his grievance presented by counsel in public before the highest court in the land. Less creditably, the case is an example of how supreme courts can respond in an unprincipled manner to wartime pressures. In 1944, in a similar vein, the American supreme court upheld the segregation in "assembly centres" and "relocation centres" of all people of Japanese ancestry living on the West Coast, many of whom were American citizens by birth. By contrast, at the start of the Gulf war, to the credit of the Israeli judiciary, a judge ordered the government to provide gas masks to West Bank Palestinians.

Lord Atkin reminded his colleagues in 1941 that "one of the principles of liberty for which we are now fighting" made it the court's role to ensure that the state obeyed the law. No English judge would approve today the unfettered executive discretion recognised in 1941. However, the extent to which courts should require the executive to explain decisions that are taken for national security reasons remains a live and difficult issue in administrative law. During the Gulf war, the Court of Appeal upheld the legality of procedures for the deportation of foreign nationals, which denied those affected the right to know the basis of the case against them.

Administrative law has come a long way since 1941. But the English legal system still has some distance to travel before it achieves a satisfactory synthesis of national security and fundamental rights.

● The author is a practising barrister and a Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford

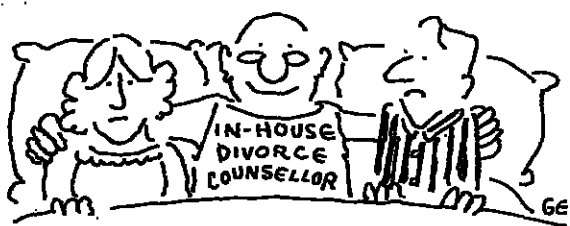


DAVID PANNICK

Wise words before divorce

EVERY divorce practice should have an in-house divorce counsellor. Such people save time and money and help clients to be objective, says Margaret Bennett, a central London solicitor, who set up a specialist divorce practice in November. For this, she brought in a psychiatric social worker, Lady Patricia Harris, as a clients' counsellor.

Ms Bennett says: "She helps clients of both sexes to overcome many of the problems associated with divorcing couples — to become emotionally detached and



rid themselves of the senses of shame, guilt, anger and failure. The advantage is that when we, as solicitors, discuss the legal side, the client is more objective. "Another advantage has been that the client who has undergone counselling can

normally give a more objective run-down on an ex-husband or ex-wife so that we have a better insight into the sort of person we are up against. "By the time a client comes into my office, we can get straight down to business

without any emotional issues blurring the targets. That cuts consultation time and the costs."

Ms Bennett says clients decide whether to accept counselling. Most do, and usually have one or two sessions. In the absence of solicitors, Lady Patricia does not report back.

Ms Bennett says: "Client reaction has been so positive that I am in no doubt that this sort of service is of major benefit to those who are divorcing and a great help to their legal advisers. It is one of the ways forward."

ROGER PEARSON

High cost of equality

THE aftermath of the European Court ruling on pensions which heralded equal pension ages for men and women (the case of Barber) shows little sign of going away. The CBI is to publish the full results of the survey into the cost of the decision next month, but the preliminary results are already showing that if the decision is applied retrospectively, the costs could be "ruinous".

The question of the date from which the equalisation of occupational pension ages required by the decision should apply is still unresolved. The survey assesses the cost if pensions now being paid or previously accrued were covered as well as those which accrued after the date of the decision (May 17 1990).

The CBI estimates that this would run to £40 billion or four years' worth of capital spending on plant and equipment and four years' worth of investment in research and development. The government is also alarmed — hence its financial support for the Coleridge case recently referred to the European Court, in which the court will be urged not to apply the Barber decision retrospectively.

INNS AND OUTS

the number of places available for students by 524, bringing its total annual intake to more than 5,000.

While the library is moving to the huge new building near Kings Cross, the college is gearing up to produce more lawyers just when everyone seems to agree there are too many already.

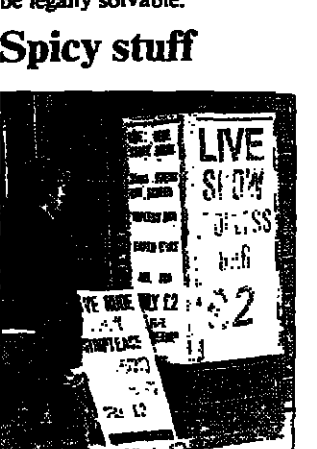
Lost cause?

WHY are solicitors apparently so reluctant to take on work involving old and mentally incapacitated people? Is the work regarded as unprofitable or is the combination of expertise in trust and welfare benefits law too difficult to find?

In acting for the mentally ill, solicitors can protect not only their clients but also clients' carers by advising on and adopting correct procedures. At present, there are 750,000 Alzheimer's disease sufferers in the United Kingdom, but the affairs of only 36,000 of them are looked after by the Court of Protection. And despite the welcome given to enduring powers of attorney when they were introduced in 1985, only 2,540 were registered in 1990.

The Law Commission is tackling the whole issue of the adequacy of legal procedures for managing the affairs of mentally ill adults. A recent consultation paper ("No 119: Mentally Incapacitated Adults and Decision-Making") published this year is still open to

Spicy stuff



Sex shops: lecture topic

IT is Bar Conference time again. If you have not booked a place yet, hurry on down to find out "how to be top (or how to hit the opposition for six)". Learn about sex shops, Sunday trading and the free movement of goods under article 30.

Join in "an interesting and participative session in which members of the panel will encourage the Bar to present itself more effectively to the still largely untapped market advising the commercial sector of the UK".

Look out, too, for the session on becoming a specialist given by barrister Giles

Kavanagh. His specialism? Well, he is the editor of the Coroners' Court manual.

Fewer mergers

MERGER activity between law firms in the first six months of 1991 matched the previous half year, according to the latest KPMG solicitors consulting unit report. The number of mergers is still well below that of a year ago, and 60 per cent down on two years ago. The unit blames the downturn on the recession, which it says is forcing law firms to concentrate on keeping the core business going and they do not have time to consider expansion through merger.

Perhaps the unit should produce figures on how many of the 100 or so mergers it monitored in 1989 are still functioning today.

More reform

THE Law Commission has published its fifth programme of law reform, identifying new areas where reform is needed. Among them is judicial review — one of the fastest-developing areas of law since its introduction in 1977 after the commission's "Report on Remedies in Administrative Law".

The commission will consider whether the time limit for starting proceedings should be reviewed, who should be able to apply, whether interim relief should be available against the Crown and whether applicants should be barred from taking other forms of legal action.

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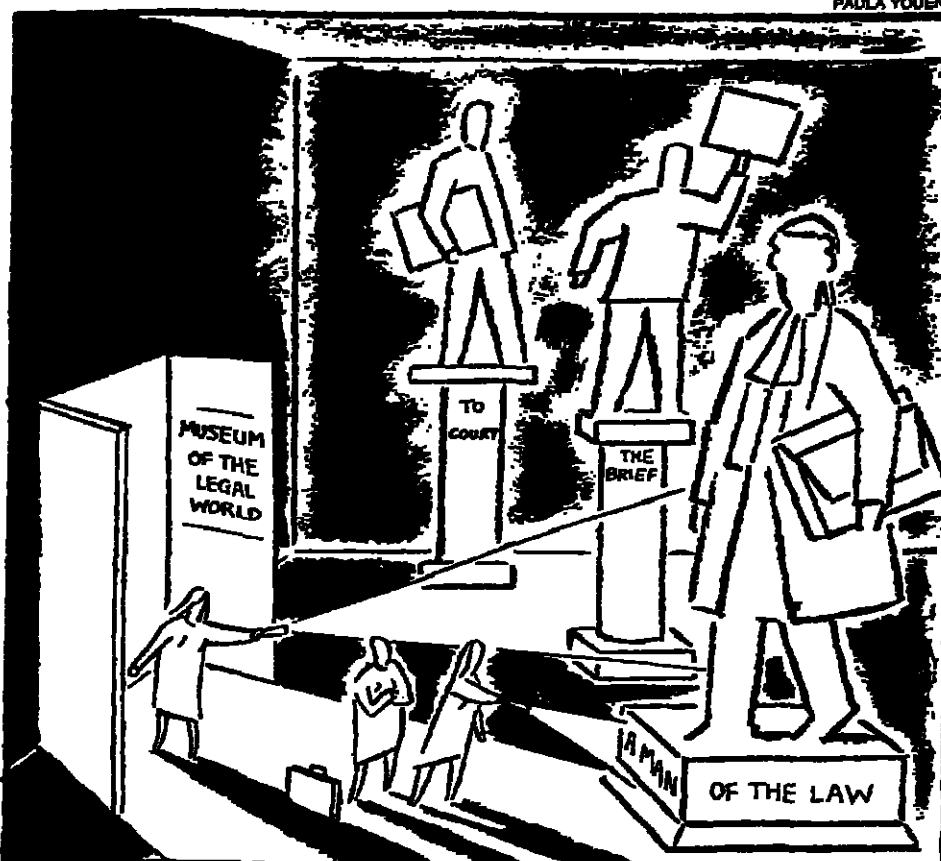


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Woman's place is in the court

James Comyn makes out the case for more women lawyers to become QCs and judges

Would I brief a woman QC? Of course I would — given her general expertise in the subject matter of the case. And a woman junior as well, just as I would in the case of a man. I would do so with complete confidence. There are now, happily, many more women QCs than there were. Far more women are now coming to the Bar; they make up nearly half the new entrants. The problem for women, as with able men, is to make a living. As in other departments of life, much depends on choice of chambers, luck, health, hard work and experience, of which the last is probably the most difficult because of lingering discrimination. I was brought up in a "man's world", where even women doctors were viewed with great reserve. Until you were ill. Then they blossomed in numbers, broke down the reserve about them, and very often ranked in merit well above their male colleagues, though below them in numbers. By persistence, involving hard work, they have established their name and position. Women barristers, although having more practical progress to make, are on the way to the same achievement. About 25 years ago, people started to think that there might be opportunity for women in the law, but as solicitors. Women soon proved themselves. Much later, we saw them as qualified, practising barristers, and there were, and are still, many prejudices to overcome. There are, at random, two women whom I regard as in the top flight in commercial law and common law. They deserve silk, and there are many others whom I led at the Bar and who appeared before me when I was on the bench, whose competency was excellent. With this rank of competence, why are not more judicial appointments made available to women barristers? There have been a few more



just lately, but there are only two High Court judges, and 17 women out of more than 400 circuit judges. Yet women appointed to higher judicial offices have more than surpassed what was expected of them. There can be no valid reason not to appoint more women — and men. Economy? Justice is beyond price. Apparently, those on high think women who are given senior judicial office are best destined for family work. There is, however, one senior ranking and outstanding example in the sole woman, Lord Justice Butler-Sloss, in the Court of Appeal. Then there are lay magistrates, many of whom are women, and they deal with more than 90 per cent of criminal and semi-criminal offences, including, of course, motoring matters. There are ample rights of appeal and lay women, as well as the men, have a high rate of success in their rulings. In all senior and junior judicial appointments, there is the occasional, unpredictable lack of success, such as a good advocate turning out to be a bad judge, but this is fortunately rare. All judges get it wrong sometimes, but the proportion of mistakes by women and men is much the same, and on the whole the proportion of successful appeals is relatively low. In recent published

When it pays to avoid making case law

The recent settlement of Ferranti's lawsuit against KPMG Peat Marwick is one of the few published pieces of information about claims against professional firms. At £40 million, it was a large settlement. What happens to the other claims against professionals that do not make headlines?

There are three salient features of the Ferranti v Peat Marwick claim. First, Peat had acted as the auditor of International Signal. The "due diligence" report it prepared was relied on by Ferranti, but Peat's client was International Signal. Ferranti's claim against Peat, over the purchase in 1987 of International Signal and Control, the subsidiary at the heart of a £155 million fraud that devastated the electronics and defence group, was therefore not a contractual claim, but a claim for the tort of negligence.

Second, Peat settled the claim at a fairly early stage. Cases of this sort can often take at least three years to reach trial. Third, Ferranti's claim was thought to be for an amount close to the price, £420 million, paid for International Signal. So although the £40 million settlement is large, it may have been only 10 per cent of what Ferranti was claiming.

A claim against an auditor is a speculative adventure for any claimant, but particularly when the claimant is not the auditor's client. The law of negligence has fluctuated enormously during the past 30 years. By the early 1980s, the courts were allowing all kinds

Pear's payment of £40m out of court to Ferranti is unusual but it was a wise move

of claims. Now claims are again very restricted.

These fluctuations make the law in this area uncertain, because changes can occur during the course of a lawsuit.

Settlement by Peat of the Ferranti claim at an early stage is unusual. Most such cases settle much later. The professional indemnity insurers make the payments. Insurers' policy of protracting litigation and postponing the settlement of claims is well known and hardly surprising. Not every claimant who issues a writ actually follows it up to trial, and the defendant's liability to make a payment does not arise until there is a judgment.

The skill of insurers at managing litigation can prevent cases reaching a judgment. Court judgments on professional negligence would establish legal standards. The only important case to have reached judgment recently is *Caparo v Dickman* (1990), which severely restricts third-party claims against auditors in the *Ferranti v Peat* kind of situation. Proceeding with the action would not have suited Ferranti's insurers because to win it Ferranti would have had to challenge successfully *Caparo v Dickman*, and that could only improve the claimants' chances in litigation against the auditors.

So the payment of £40 million by Peat to Ferranti may have its own reasons, but it is in line with the general run of professional negligence claims. The publicity alone is bound to encourage claimants. They will have a long and costly road to an uncertain destination.

JOHN KENDALL

The author is a partner with Allen and Overy, solicitors

Peat Marwick settles Ferranti claim for £40m

Flashback to the headlines on the £40 million settlement

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The small size of grants means that many students have to seek other sources of funding. Marie Forsyth studies the pros and cons of one method

A sponsor to keep you at college

The shortage of temporary and permanent jobs this summer has caused financial hardship for many students and graduates and the outlook is not encouraging. Universities are being urged to increase their student intake, but student grants barely cover rent and fuel bills. This means students have to find money elsewhere. One route is sponsorship.

Despite the recession, sponsorship schemes continue to flourish, although there is a wide variation in the number of sponsorships that companies offer. For example, GEC Marconi sponsors 250 students a year, ICI 50 and Pirelli General two or three. Most companies use selection tests to assess the students' commitment.

The average annual bursary is £1,200, which is in addition to the normal grant or any student loan, and sponsored students are normally expected to work for the company during the summer vacation for about £135 a week.

The benefits to the student are obvious, but what are the benefits to the company?

Andrew Waterman, the senior employer relations specialist at Intel Corporation (UK), says: "It is the best way we know to recruit graduates. We interview students during their first year at university and they come to us every summer. Then we get to know them and they get to know us. We cannot guarantee them a job, but they may not necessarily want what we can offer them."

Garth Williams is studying micro-electronic systems engineer-

ing at the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology (Umist) and is sponsored by Intel. He receives a bursary of £800 a year and was paid £160 a week for summer vacation work. The company arranges and pays for his accommodation. Mr Williams says: "Intel is a good name with which to be associated. I was at Intel for ten weeks and because this was my first year I spent a week in ten different departments. I wanted to do a computer-related course with a practical base, and industrial placements are part of the course. I am not sure that Intel will offer me a job, or whether I will want one, but I like the open style of management here."

Simon Read was sponsored by Plessey Radar six years ago but did not accept the job offered by the company. "I went to work elsewhere in the Plessey group," he says. Sponsorships are mainly available in the sciences, management-related subjects and all branches of

engineering. About one in three students in mechanical engineering in Britain is now sponsored. Some sponsorships are specifically for arts subjects, but because they are few and far between students need to apply early. At present, there are also 80 sponsoring companies that place no restriction on the subjects studied.

The Careers and Occupational Information Centre (COIC) publishes *Sponsorships 91*, which gives details of 112 organisations and companies offering sponsorships. Umist is the only university with a central sponsorship information service, which comprises a database of companies that offer sponsorships both on a national basis and on Umist courses. "Sponsorship is growing and changing all the time," says Joan Savage, its sponsorship officer. "There are 5,500 sponsorships on offer, but every company

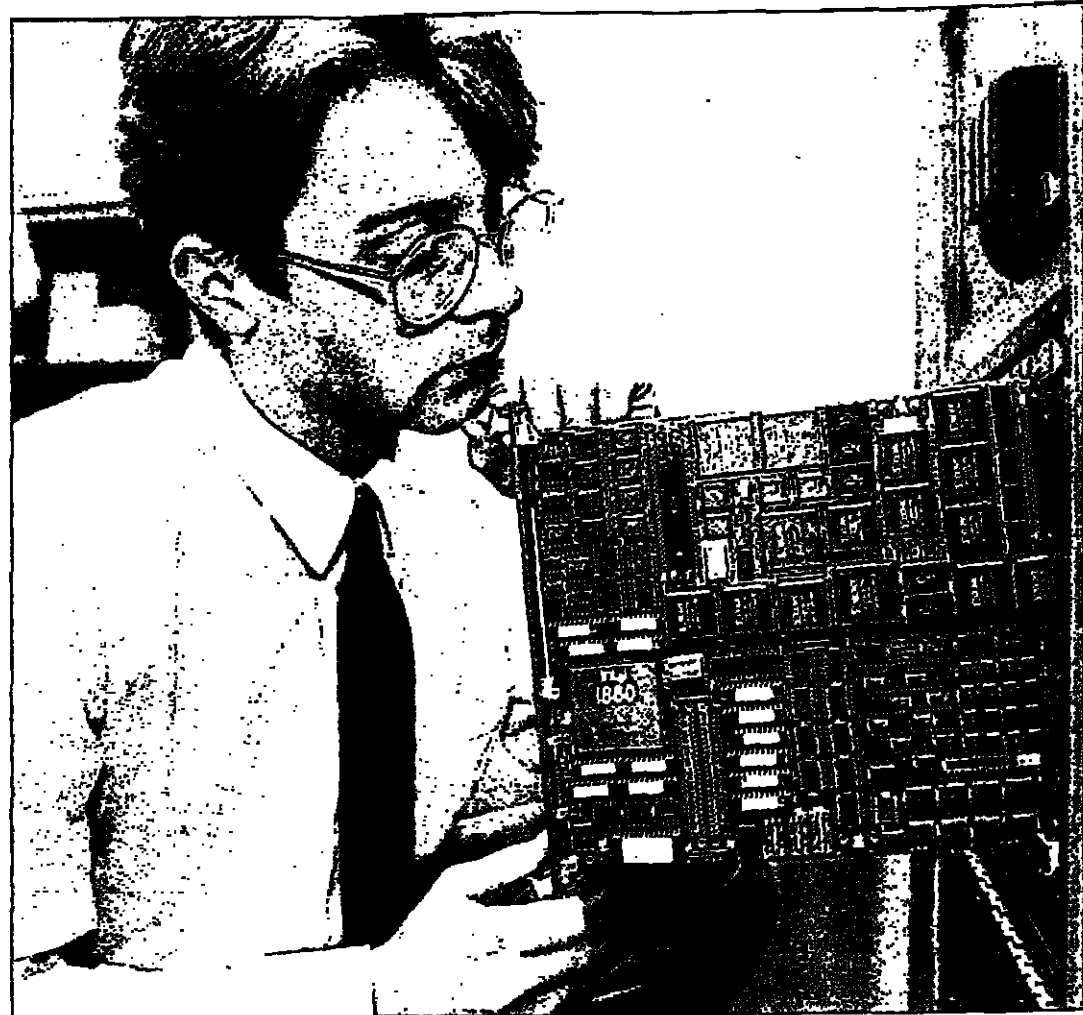
scheme is slightly different. The recession has not caused a significant change.

"It is no more expensive for a company to pay a student £1,200 a year during a degree course than to recruit a graduate and pay him or her half a year's salary before finding he is not suitable. We advise students about the availability of sponsorships and apply to the relevant companies on their behalf. Umist courses being sponsored at present include mechanical engineering, biochemistry, materials science and optics. We also advise companies on how to run sponsorship schemes and tell them where they are going wrong, for example, if they do not make students feel part of the company."

The Umist sponsorship scheme has been so busy with enquiries from students about sponsorships in other universities that a new company called Student Sponsorship Information Service (SSIS) has been established.

The agreement between the company and the student is not a legal contract. At the end of a degree course, the company is not obliged to offer the student a job, or for the student to take one. The success of sponsorship lies in the mutual benefit to both parties.

Student Sponsorship Information Service, PO Box 36, Newton-le-Willows, Merseyside W412 0DH. Umist Sponsorship Information Service (061-200 3311). Sponsorships 91 can be obtained from Department CW: ISCO 5, The Paddock, Frizinghall, Bradford BD9 4HD, priced £2.50, for which cheques should be made payable to the Department of Employment.



Future investment: Gareth Williams, receives a company bursary of £800 a year to study

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We offer a competitive salary together with performance related pay reviews to a current maximum of £40,000, and a congenial working environment in London. Other benefits include free rail travel and an excellent contributory pension scheme.

Applications marked "Confidential", together with a full C.V., should be sent to: Graeme Cooke, Personnel Manager, The Solicitor's Department, British Railways Board, Macmillan House, PO Box 1016, Paddington Station, London W2 1YG.

No Agencies please.

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With an annual budget of nearly £50m, 2,300 personnel, over 1,000 vehicles and the only publicly funded air ambulance helicopter in the UK, the Scottish Ambulance Service is one of the largest public ambulance services in the world. A major overhaul of the Service is in progress involving the recruitment of a significant number of additional staff and the training of a large number of Paramedics. These initiatives are principal elements of a "strategy for the nineties" designed to enhance the quality of pre-hospital patient care in Scotland.

THE JOB

This new key position is integral to the overall strategy for the Scottish Ambulance Service. A member of the Service's Management Board, your priority tasks will be to design, initiate, develop and manage a system of career development linked to performance appraisal. You will also be required to assess the training needs of the Service and ensure that an effective system of progressive training is set up and monitored in keeping with the aims of the strategy. The provision of an effective personnel service is another prime requirement.



COMMON SERVICES AGENCY
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THE APPLICANT

Above all, the requirement is for an innovator and leader who is able to distinguish "the wood from the trees". Clearly, extensive experience in the management of personnel and the organisation of training and development is also a necessity. If this has been gained within a structured organisation within the Public Service—so much the better. The post will appeal to someone who enjoys a challenge and is keen to make a personal contribution as part of a close-knit team.

THE OFFER

The appointment is offered on NHS terms and conditions of service with a competitive salary and benefits package which includes performance related pay, contributory pension, an attractive car-leasing scheme, and, where appropriate, generous relocation expenses. The job will be based at the Scottish Ambulance Service National Headquarters in Morriston, Edinburgh but periodic travel throughout Scotland will be required.

THE NEXT STEP

Letters of application and CVs should be sent to the Central Personnel Department (Reference: CPD1) Common Services Agency, Trinity Park House, South Trinity Road, Edinburgh EH5 3SE. Anyone wishing an informal discussion about the post should telephone Andrew Freemantle on 031-447 7711 (as from Tuesday 17th September). The closing date for receipt of completed applications is Friday 11th October.

Promoting and Achieving the Management of Change for the Benefit of the Community



Chief Executive

£74,000*

Plus Performance Related Supplement (up to 10%)

5 year fixed term contract (renewable, subject to agreement)

Bedfordshire County Council is progressing through a period of considerable change. New legislation, concerns for the young, elderly and less advantaged people, the environment, public provision, leisure and the county's economy, a growing and changing population, new approaches to providing services, sound resource management and a greater awareness of customers and their needs are all impelling us to change. The challenge is to provide the right service to the right people at the right time using in the best effect the resources that Council can afford.

Working with the Council and its Chief Officers in a finely balanced political setting, the role of Chief Executive is crucial to meeting this demanding challenge. The overall management, decentralisation, strategic planning and review, customer care, quality standards, performance measurement, human resource management and equal opportunities are all key areas being addressed. As such it provides a challenging opportunity to the right person.

Serving a population of 440,000, with a budget of £400 million and 10,000 employees, the Council is a major organisation. For the past 10 years the Council has been a success story. The Council is a major organisation. For the past 10 years the Council has been a success story. The Council is a major organisation. For the past 10 years the Council has been a success story.

In addition to the salary, the package includes relocation expenses, subsidised leased car and excellent working conditions.

*To be adjusted annually in accordance with the J98 agreement.

Applicants are invited to write for a comprehensive information pack to the Chief Executive, County Hall, Bedford, MK42 9AP, or telephone (0454) 228000 (24 hour answerphone). Those wishing for an informal discussion on the post may contact Vernon Phillips on Bedford (0454) 228000, or Geoff Wells on Bedford (0454) 228010.

Closing date for all applications: 14th October 1991.

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Bedfordshire
COUNTY COUNCIL

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Circa £50,000 Plus Benefits

The Borough Council is seeking a successor to John Gau who will be retiring in October 1991 as head of the paid service, to lead the Management Team and advise the Council on the development and implementation of policies responsive to quality service provision.

To be successful as our Chief Executive, you will need to show evidence of substantial managerial experience and exceptional leadership ability confirmed by a proven track record in managing a large organisation, preferably in the public sector, and be educated to degree standard.

It is essential that you possess a professional qualification in an accepted local government discipline with a minimum of 7 years' management experience at a senior level.

In return, the post offers an excellent remuneration package, including relocation expenses of up to £3,000 and Car Lease Scheme or interest-free loan.

Enquiries about the position can be made to John Gau on Barry (0446) 700111, Extension 302.

The Borough is an extremely pleasant area in which to work and live, with a rural hinterland and an attractive coastline which includes the seaside towns of Barry and Penarth and the rural market town of Cowbridge. The capital city of Wales, Cardiff is adjacent to the Borough with all the social and cultural facilities you would expect in a city of its stature.

Convincing members of the Authority, directly, or indirectly, will disqualify the candidate.

The Council is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Candidates are considered purely on merit and suitability for the post and the Council welcomes application, irrespective of sex, ethnic origin or disability.

Application forms and information packs are available from the Chief Personnel Officer, to whom completed forms must be returned by Monday 17th October 1991.

Civic Offices, Holton Road Barry, South Glamorgan, CF6 6RU.

Tel: Barry (0446) 732423 (Direct Line).

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RUGBY UNION

Cooke gives England three-point advantage

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

GEOFF Cooke, the England team manager, believes his team may be stronger than New Zealand in three distinct areas as both countries prepare for their opening World Cup match on October 3. That match, at Twickenham, will have a lasting effect on the subsequent shape of the tournament, since victory for England could help them avoid a potentially awkward quarter-final against France in Paris.

"The back row will be the crucial area," Cooke said yesterday. "We can match New Zealand in the front five and I think we can beat them in the lineout if we get our organisation right. There's little in it at half back and on the wings, but our midfield is better, and now I think we are better at full back, in view of their selection of Terry Wright and Shayne Philpott."

"New Zealand give me the impression of having less depth than they would care to admit. In terms of current form, you would have to say that Australia are the best side in the world at the moment. But New Zealanders have a mental toughness about them and refuse to accept anything but the best. I still think they're the side to beat — and we may have to beat them twice if we are to win the World Cup."

Cooke's estimation is at odds with that of Alan Jones, the former Wallaby coach now involved with Balmain, the Sydney rugby league club. "The World Cup needs experienced players who know how to handle the pressure," he said over the weekend. "The whole front row, for instance, is inexperienced in this environment."

Cooke underscored En-

gland's home advantage — including their familiarity with the semi-final venues, Murrayfield and Lansdowne Road. "But the home unions are going in with a disadvantage, because of our lack of rugby," Cooke said. "Six of the eight forwards who played at Gloucester on Saturday were playing their first game since the Australian tour in July."

To that end the three forwards not required for England's final preparatory match against England Students at Cambridge this Saturday, Pearce, Redman and Skinner, will be encouraged to play for their clubs.

Rob Andrew will captain England's XV since Will Carling stands down, but Mike Tegen and Wade Dooley play their third game in succession as the grand slam pack is reconstituted.

England will play eight matches in New Zealand next summer, when they make a development tour with a B party of thirty. A squad will be announced shortly, which will also take in the four B internationals planned for this level in the new year, against Spain, Ireland, Italy and France.

ENGLAND XV (v England Students): J. Webb (captain), W. Woodcock (captain), S. Hadden (captain), J. Gossard (captain), R. Underwood (captain), R. Andrew (captain), D. Morris (captain), J. Leonard (captain), B. Moore (captain), J. Probyn (captain), M. Tegen (captain), W. Dooley (captain), P. Winterson (captain), D. Richards (captain), R. Carling (captain), R. Hill (captain), P. Randall (captain), J. Oliver (captain), S. Hadden (captain).

Cooke underscored En-



Medallion man: Kiptani, with Dick Fisher, dean of science at St Mary's, shows off his treasure trove from Tokyo

Kenyans pass with honours

By DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

TERM finishes today for the summer school at St Mary's College, Twickenham. Exam results have been good and there will be plenty wanting to come back next year.

St Mary's has become the English alternative to the United States university system: a place where aspiring Kenyan runners can move closer to their sporting horizons.

Fourteen of the 34 members of Kenya's successful team at the world championships in Tokyo were from the St Mary's class of '91. Moses Kiptani, aged 19, was top boy, with a gold medal in the 3,000 metres steeplechase.

Kiptani has been back at college, using it as his base for the end-of-term celebrations. Well-paid celebrations. The last meetings of the grand prize season open their cheque-books to people like him — a world champion who, by popular belief, has a world record in him before home time.

He missed it by only a second in Brussels last Friday and will try again in Barcelona in the

Mobil grand prix final this Friday.

Kiptani travelled directly from Tokyo to London to make his money instead of returning home to Kitala, a Kenyan coffee-farming community set at 6,000ft in the shadow of Mount Elgon.

Three nights at St Mary's then it was back into Europe for his post-world championship races. Now, he is in London again as the athletes clear out their things to leave today and make way for the students.

Last year, when St Mary's opened its doors to the Kenyans while its regular students were on vacation from July to September, there were fewer than a dozen takers. This year, registration increased to 30 through word of mouth.

Kenyan habits are changing and the reasons are simple. Why take a scholarship in the United States when the dollars are in and around London and they can train together here in a group?

The grand prize circuit hardly touches the United States and is dominated by meetings in Europe. St Mary's student

rooms one night, the Oslo Plaza the next. Six 800s on the Norbion track on Wednesday and a world-class steeplechase in Barcelona or Brussels on the Friday.

The sport's commercial expansion — against welcome accreditation supplied — has put money where scholarships used to be. Have agent, will run ... and earn. A Kenyan athlete is no longer judged on how many goats he has but the size of his farm; and athletes can afford some of the biggest farms.

"They realise this is their big chance, from a financial point of view, and are willing to leave home for longer periods," Kim McDonald, the British agent who represents some 30 Kenyans, and who was responsible for setting up the arrangement with St Mary's, said.

It is McDonald who has turned them into a job-lot. A Joe Douglas and his dealings on behalf of the Santa Monica Track Club.

McDonald works with the co-operation of the Kenyan Amateur Athletic Association. "As people like myself have become involved, athletes based domes-

tically see the advantages of training at altitude in Kenya during our winter and coming here to run in Europe during the summer," he said.

The St Mary's athletes have been put through physiological and psychological testing at the college sports laboratory. Conversation is not always in English: the college has its own resident Swahili speaker, John Callender, the registrar, who spent 17 years in Africa.

Others who have been to St Mary's include Yobes Odiit, who won the 5,000 metres in Tokyo, Wilfred Kirochi and David Kibet, second and seventh in the 1,500 metres, and Julius Kariuki, fourth in the steeplechase.

Kiptani, Kibet and the 5,000 metres runners, Odiit and Ibrahim Kimutui, returned from Tokyo to St Mary's to a champagne reception in their honour, hosted by the college principal, the Reverend Desmond Berne. The college could have saved itself some money.

The reception committee had to drink the champagne because the Kenyans wanted nothing stronger than orange juice.

Where sport was more important than life or death

By PETER BARNARD

SPORT ON TELEVISION

THE WEEK IN REVIEW

IF MIS were to run a football club, what would it specialise in? Own goals? Blind side running? Hopefully, we shall never know. Dynamo Berlin was until recently pre-eminent in East Germany, assisted by the fact that it was owned, run and generally kicked out by the Stasi, that defunct country's defunct secret police.

This was a singularly dreadful marriage of sport and politics and, as BBC 2's excellent *On The Line* showed the other night, created a situation in which three-star Stasi generals became involved in the allocation of yellow cards and the awarding of dodgy goals.

Dynamo Berlin were champions ten times and, therefore, played in the European Cup. So pervasive was the Stasi's role that when Nottingham Forest played them it is very likely Brian Clough's team talk was recorded by hidden microphones.

It appears that some people in the Stasi took a Shakespearian view of football: that it was more important than life or death.

On the cost-tails of the mission to reveal what has become an epidemic in the east, *On The Line* opened Stasi files and called up a few names. Dynamo's president and its chairman were generals. There was also a referee, no doubt one of many, who in one game awarded Dynamo a penalty so ludicrous that the club's own goalkeeper stood in his goalmouth praying for it to be missed. This referee was on a 30,000-mark annual "salary" from the Stasi.

In another match this referee awarded a goal, obviously offside that the entire crowd, some 20,000, burst out laughing, not the commonest occurrence at first division matches anywhere.

Another referee made the grave mistake of booking a Dynamo player. He was "spotted" by Stasi officials after the game and never handled another Dynamo match.

What really matters about all this has nothing to do with sport as such, but should concern people in and around sport. The Stasi's involvement with a football club was sheer indulgence. It mattered not a jot. It was power for the sake of it. At most, it enabled

the Stasi to say: "We are everywhere." But fixing football matches is not the same as being in the hearts and minds of the people. And the Stasi knew what had been perpetrated on them. At least one Dynamo player, previously a hero, had his house stoned and his lawn drenched with paint.

And now? Dynamo's best players have been transferred west. The club has been renamed FC Berlin and has slumped into the third division, with amateur status. The club has time to rebuild and reflect on the greatest irony. As one of their former players said, Dynamo were good enough to win without the Stasi. Stupid men have obliged football to take out Dynamo's file and stamp it "suspect".

Another shame is the apparent demise of *Test Match Special*. *TMS* is not going down without a fight, especially within the BBC, where programme-makers are putting the argument on the air. *On The Line* has joined in. Its item added nothing to the debate because it failed to explain the options. The government is forcing the BBC to give up its long-view frequency to commercial interests, though how commercial and how interested these newcomers will be is questionable.

The only home *TMS* is being offered is amid the Radio 5 hot-potch, which would mean the end of ball-by-ball commentary. I regret that, but not as much as once I would have. *TMS* has become terribly fifth formish and the genuine literary appeal it once had disappeared with John Arlott's retirement in 1980. *On The Line* ended the item on *TMS* by playing us Brian Johnston's fit of the giggles after Ian Botham had got out to the West Indies by brushing a stump with his thigh.

The giggles were brought on by Jonathan Agnew, saying that Botham had "failed to get his leg over". A fairly typical *TMS* "joke".

PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS

SOUTH EAST LONDON COMMISSIONING AGENCY

CONTRACTS MANAGER

c.£25,000

THE ORGANISATION:

With a £300m budget to purchase health services for 700,000 people living in the boroughs of Lambeth, Southwark and Lewisham, we are at the forefront of developing contracting and the commissioning role.

THE ROLE:

Securing, maintaining and monitoring contracts. Ensuring equity of access to effective and efficient services that are highly specialised and capital intensive, (former multi-district/Regional specialities). This will require a clear understanding of the relationship between short term need, long term health gain and provider unit development plans.

THE PERSON:

The post is part of a dynamic new team, which needs a person who has:

- highly developed communication skills, with the confidence and credibility to influence and negotiate at all levels;
- high intellectual calibre, probably a graduate with a health care or social services background;
- high energy level, tenacious, task oriented and with a relish for a challenge.

To discuss the post contact Claire Perry, Director of Commissioning (external providers), on 071-955 4371.

Application packs are available from the Personnel Department, Mary Sheridan House, 57 Thomas Street, London SE1 9RT. Telephone 071-955 4706.

Closing date 27th September 1991.

SELCA is an initiative of Camberwell, Lewisham and North Southwark and West Lambeth Health Authorities.

ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN

Applications are invited from graduates with professional qualifications for the post of Assistant Librarian. Responsibilities include the provision of reference and information services. Experience in the operation of such services would be an advantage.

Duties include a range of activities supported by developments in automated systems, including micro-computers and on-line facilities. Opportunities exist to participate in making general operational policy. Salary in range: £11,399 - £18,165 per annum (under review).

For application form and further particulars (Ref 115/81) contact the Personnel Office, University of Strathclyde, Glasgow G1 1XQ. Applications closing date: 1st November 1991.

UNIVERSITY OF STRATHCLYDE

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES EMPLOYER

Can you advise the NHS in Wales on the change management issues related to developing:

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND TOTAL QUALITY MANAGEMENT?

The NHS in Wales has developed a number of key strategies in the areas of Health Gain, Quality, People and Information/Information Technology.

The Change Management Adviser will be expected to take forward the organization development aspects of Resource Management and Total Quality Management. To do this you will have to work closely with senior managers and health care professionals at Welsh Office, District, Unit and FHSA level. You will be expected to demonstrate a sound knowledge of Resource Management, Total Quality Management, change management techniques and, in addition, possess a credible managerial/professional background.

You will be a member of MCS whose mission is "to support the Health Service in Wales in achieving its objectives by promoting, developing, influencing and delivering best practice in personnel management and organization development". You will report directly to Stephen Prosser, the NHS in Wales' Director of Manpower Services.

The challenges in the job are great but so are the rewards. The employment package includes a salary of £31,000 (to be reviewed September 1991), a lease car and life in a beautiful part of Wales.

Further details, quoting reference M080/ST, can be obtained by telephoning our 24 hour Jobline on (0222) 483445 or writing to:

The Personnel Division, Welsh Health Common Services Authority, Heron House, 35/43 Newport Road, Cardiff CF2 1SB.

Closing date: 4th October 1991.

MCS is a Directorate of the Welsh Health Common Services Authority



Welsh Health Common Services Authority
Awdurdod Gwasanaethau Cyffredin
Iechyd Cymru

BRITISH DIABETIC ASSOCIATION

Appeals Director

The British Diabetic Association is a service and research charity which helps people with diabetes and provides substantial funds for research.

A new Appeals Director, reporting to the Director General, will be expected to continue the steady increase in donations as well as generate new sources of income. Accordingly, a thorough knowledge of fundraising or similar will be required, as well as a wide range of senior level professional contacts. Some knowledge of the voluntary sector would be helpful. Probably aged 35 - 50, with a pleasant and determined disposition.

Salary in the region of £30k, dependent upon experience. Location London W1.

Please write in confidence with CV to Susan Laling Stewart, Charity Appointments, 3 Spital Yard, London E1 6AQ.

Charity Appointments

A registered charity serving the voluntary sector

Do you have the ability and commitment to lead a diverse Leisure Services Team?

£45,750 - £50,325

Our Leisure Services Department is responsible for developing and delivering a wide range of services under the broad umbrella of leisure provision including Community Recreation, Sports Development, Tourism, Arts, Libraries and Countryside.

With a tradition of innovation, responsiveness and success, Humberside Leisure Services has made significant achievements in these areas. For example, the department manages the Humberside Ice Arena, an active tourism marketing strategy, special sporting events such as the Humber Bridge Marathon, community based leisure facilities and an extensive arts development programme. The department has a revenue budget of over £13.5m and has 900 employees.

The further development and corporate management of such a diverse range of services requires strong, dynamic leadership and imaginative innovation and we now seek a Chief Officer to head the department. A local government background is not essential, although a clear understanding of multi-functional leisure management is important and you must be able to work closely with Elected Members and District Councils. Substantial senior management experience in Libraries or Sports Development functions is desirable.

You will be based in the attractive city of Hull, within easy reach of the coast and countryside. House prices in the area still represent good value.

A generous relocation package, excellent pension scheme, car leasing and nursery facilities are just a few of the fringe benefits.

For an informal discussion contact the County Personnel Officer, Mr. M.P. Turner on 0482 884901.

For an application form and further details telephone the County Personnel Department on 0482 884908. Alternatively write to: The County Personnel Officer, Humberside County Council, P.O. Box 37, County Hall, Beverley, North Humberside, HU17 9BB. Closing date for receipt of application form is 4th October, 1991.

This Authority positively welcomes applicants from all sections of the community and particularly from people with disabilities and people from Black and Asian Communities who are currently under-represented in the workforce. Applications to job share will be considered sympathetically.

HUMBERSIDE COUNTY COUNCIL

HEALTH CARE

REGIONAL EDUCATION CENTRE

Education built on a solid foundation of quality

REGIONAL NURSE - EDUCATION

Up to £29,306 + Performance Related Pay (Under Review)

Training has always been a priority within South West Thames RHA and, with the implementation of Working Paper 10, we have the opportunity to influence both the quality and direction of training, as well as the numbers of students who are trained. Hence the creation of a new post within our South West London based Regional Education Centre.

In your capacity as Head of the Education Contracting Unit, you will be involved in contract negotiation and monitoring of both nursing and non-nursing educational contracts. Another prime responsibility will be the matching of manpower plans to education intakes, financial parameters and existing staff supply.

Either a Registered Nurse or a graduate in a discipline relevant to nursing, you must have a

commitment to quality and, ideally, a qualification in education. These must be backed by management skills of a calibre that will enable you to motivate others, as well as coordinate a broad range of activities in a systematic way.

We offer an attractive salary and benefits package which includes child care vouchers, subsidised dental and optical care, plus pension scheme. The option of job-sharing is also available.

An application form and job description are available from HQ Personnel, SWTRHA, 40 Eastbourne Terrace, London W2 3QR. Telephone: 071-262 8011 ext. 4026 (ansaphone 8am - 6pm). Please quote Ref: 91/N/TT.

Closing date: 27th September 1991.

Working Towards Equal Opportunities.



SOUTH WEST THAMES
Regional Health Authority

مركز من الاجل

Rothenberg's not so gentle art of persuasion

Here is America on football's World Cup. "They're going to bring this thing to the United States and change money for people to see it? Listen, if this thing were a Broadway show, it would have closed on the first night." As a summary of American response to the 1994 World Cup, which will be held in America, this line from a top columnist could hardly be bettered.

At seven o'clock of a weekday morning, I had an appointment on the 38th floor of a building in downtown Los Angeles with Alan Rothenberg. That gave him enough time to meet his eight o'clock appointment a couple of blocks away. He told me: "This will be the most successful World Cup ever." Rothenberg combines street wisdom, the art of the hustle, an understanding of people's fluidity where personal ethics are concerned, and knock-down ability at pure talking. To put that another way, he is an American lawyer.

He is chairman of the organizing committee for the 1994 World Cup. He is also involved in the plans to establish a professional football league in the United States when the World Cup is over. Oh, and he is still running his legal practice. He is the man of a thousand meetings and a million bits of paper.

And he has taken on one of the greatest challenges in the world: to sell soccer to a country already super-saturated with sport. I'd like to tell you how he does it. This is the ice you always dreamed of. Rothenberg is as bullish as only a Beverly Hills lawyer can be. He is going to sell every single seat for every single match: something that has never been done at a World Cup.

"A little while ago, people were speculating that we couldn't get 12 cities willing to host games. But we

To make a success of the 1994 World Cup in the United States is a formidable commercial and sporting challenge. Simon Barnes meets the Los Angeles lawyer charged with selling football to the Americans

have 26 cities in contention for hosting the World Cup; and a bid from a 27th city to host the show for the final draw. That city is Las Vegas. "Their TV show for the final draw could be something the world will remember."

The seriousness of the bids is reflected in the amount of work the bidding cities are prepared to put in. A natural home for important World Cup games would be the New York Giants play and where the New York Cosmos played. But the stadium does not measure up to FIFA demands. It has an AstroTurf surface and the field of play is too narrow. So they are offering to jack up the floor over the level of the retaining walls, and surface this elevated platform with a pre-grown grass soccer pitch. That argues a certain amount of commitment.

Rothenberg sees three types of spectators contributing to the massive live audience he predicts. First there is the great hidden numbers of US soccer fans: high school kids and their parents from across middle America. The national team has attracted 40,000 people to recent friendlies. The second is the curious and enthusiastic "This is a big event type country." Rothenberg said. "People who don't know about soccer will come to games and turn on the TV, and they will catch the fever—because this will be the biggest thing going on."

And third category is the overseas visitors. He predicts these in enormous numbers. "The lure of travelling to the United States is so great, people will make the World Cup their excuse." Much has been made of the ethnic

pockets of the States you find Italian roots in New York, Irish in Boston and so on. But this, Rothenberg said, will be a mere bonus: he hopes to sell out before the draw is made. "The explosion of interest in soccer has been among white middle class America."

The question of television is interesting. The host broadcaster for the 1994 World Cup is the European Broadcasting Union. "We are all happy about that—the US networks can't match that kind of experience in presenting soccer." But how interested are the US television companies anyway?

Rothenberg predicts that ten or 11 games will be shown on US national television, and the rest on cable. "Response has been excellent," he said, rather a low-key word by Rothenberg standards. How excellent is that?

"One of the things we are seriously contemplating is buying the time from the networks and producing it all ourselves. We have sponsors and they are ready to pay. We can write a cheque and buy a box of time. That way, we could control how it is presented, and how the ads are run. That is very attractive to us. We are giving serious thought to that. It is a fact that TV sports departments of this country are hurting badly. They might well welcome that."

The sponsorship side is a complicated carve-up between the international governing body, FIFA, and the organizing committee in Los Angeles. The United States team is putting together yet another sponsorship package. "In a tough economy, and a very tough sports economy, we are very

gratified with corporate response. I am sure we will do just fine. We already have one major sponsor in American Airlines. There are also major areas of revenue for us that include ticketing, marketing and merchandising. The demographics drop when they see the potential. The people who play soccer, and whose kids play soccer in this country have money. They buy cars! They buy CD players! People say: "Oh my God, how do we reach them?"

Rothenberg added that the soccer world had great things to gain from an American World Cup. "Soccer can learn about the United States contemporary business standpoint. The world, especially the European world, will see how we have tapped Middle America, and made that conversion that is necessary for European soccer. It is not just a game for the kids on the street: it is a game for all society. These are obviously goals that FIFA shares, and they showed that by giving us the World Cup."

Rothenberg said the American World Cup has two aims: to present the greatest World Cup in history, and leave a legacy of powerful interest in soccer throughout the United States. A successful tournament is certainly within his grasp.

But soccer and the United States is a union between the game of the world's poor, and American two-car suburbia. It is too bizarre a union for safe predictions, but here is one: if the overall standard of the matches—pass back and play for penalties—is as dire as the last one, there is no future for soccer in the States. This is a matter that depends on the rules of the competition, and that is in the hands of the administrators. What did they think of it last time? Joao Havelange, the president of FIFA said: "This has been a dream World Cup."



Man of many talents: Rothenberg has taken on one of the greatest challenges in the world

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

Unbeaten Bears topple Giants

By ROBERT KIRLEY

AFTER three weeks of the National Football League season, the New York Giants and the San Francisco 49ers, often champions and shoo-ins, have records of one win and two defeats. The Cincinnati Bengals, divisional holders, have yet to win a game.

After blowing a 13-0 half-time lead, the Chicago Bears outlasted the Giants 20-17 to remain unbeaten. The Bears scored on a 42-yard touchdown run in the fourth quarter and William Perry blocked a field-goal attempt with 12 seconds left to stop the Super Bowl winners. New York beat the Bears 31-13 in the play-off.

The Minnesota Vikings won 17-14 as San Francisco lost a fumble deep in Minnesota territory, had a field goal blocked and gave up several big plays. The Vikings scored on Herschel Walker's one-yard run and Wade Wilson's 30th victory, a milestone reached only by the late George Halas, of the Bears.

Jim Schreder connected with Mervyn Fernandez on a 16-yard touchdown pass and Jeff Jager nailed three field goals to give the Los Angeles Rams a 16-0 win over the Indianapolis Colts. John Elway fired a 61-yard scoring toss to Ricky Nattiel and David Treadwell booted three field goals as the Denver Broncos held off the Seattle Seahawks 16-10.

Results and tables, page 37

THE most confident draw selection this week can be found in the first division, Everton. Coventry, Notts County v Norwich and West Ham v Manchester City all have a three-point look about them. Everton, lying nineteenth, are falling below expectations, whereas Coventry, who are fourth, are exceeding them. Having won at Arsenal the Saturday before last, Coventry will be disappointed if they come away from Goodison Park empty-handed.

West Ham are finding goals elusive. Manchester have poor travellers—factors that point to a draw being the most likely outcome at Upton Park. The fixture between Notts County and Norwich, two mid-

table sides, should provide the first of the week's highlights. In the second division, form suggests there will be nothing to separate Wolves and Swindon at Molineux. Both had excellent victories on Saturday and both place the emphasis on attack. Leicester's unbeaten run came to an abrupt end at Middlesbrough and an improving Blackburn can inflict further harm by holding them at Ebbw Vale. Tottenham have already won three away matches in the League. Expect them to continue the trend against Wimbledon. Manchester have a long-shot away. After gaining their first point of the season on Saturday they can triumph in the second division basement battle against Bristol Rovers.

Saturday September 21 unless stated

FIRST DIVISION		THIRD DIVISION	
1 Arsenal v Sheffield Wed	2 Bolton v Wigan	1 Bolton v Wigan	2 Darford v Burton
3 Everton v Coventry	3 Chelsea v West Brom	3 Chelsea v West Brom	3 Dover v Maidstone
4 Leeds v Liverpool	4 Darford v Burton	4 Darford v Burton	4 Rye House v Crawley
5 Man Utd v Luton	5 Fulham v Leyton	5 Fulham v Leyton	5 Rye House v Crawley
6 Notts Co v Norwich	6 Huddersfield v Birmnghm	6 Huddersfield v Birmnghm	6 Rye House v Crawley
7 Oxford v Colchester	7 Luton v Burnley	7 Luton v Burnley	7 Rye House v Crawley
8 QPR v Chelsea	8 Peterborough v Brierly	8 Peterborough v Brierly	8 Rye House v Crawley
9 Sheffield Wed v Southampton	9 Preston v Stoke	9 Preston v Stoke	9 Rye House v Crawley
10 West Ham v Man City	10 Reading v Wycombe	10 Reading v Wycombe	10 Rye House v Crawley
11 Wimbledon v Tottenham	11 Shrewsbury v Swindon	11 Shrewsbury v Swindon	11 Rye House v Crawley
12 Wolves v Swindon	12 Stockport v Bury	12 Stockport v Bury	12 Rye House v Crawley

TRIPLE CHANCE (home team): Everton, Notts County, West Ham, Luton, Sunderland, Wolves, Preston, Stockport, Gillingham, Wigan, Colchester City, Haverhill, Bury, QPR, Notts County, Arsenal, Bury, Wolves, Gillingham, Haverhill, Colchester, Oxford, Middlesbrough, Chelsea, West Ham, Huddersfield, Arsenal, Manchester United, Sheffield.

Sheffield Shield champions are beaten in rain-disrupted match

Durham make short work of their adjusted target

By RICHARD STREETON

DURHAM (Victoria won toss): Durham beat Victoria on faster scoring rate

DURHAM gave cricket interest in the north-east a timely boost yesterday when they defeated Victoria, the Sheffield Shield champions in a rain disrupted 50-over match. Durham's adjusted target after the interruptions was 157 in 29 overs and they won with 17 balls to spare. Well judged hitting by John Glendenen, who took a century off Glamorgan earlier this year in the NatWest trophy, and Stewart Hutton, who has played for Yorkshire second XI, laid the foundation for Durham's success. They put on 126 for the first wicket in 22 overs before the left-handed Hutton lifted a catch to mid-wicket.

The two fixtures are being treated by Durham as a rehearsal for their arrangements when they have first-class status next season and overall everything went smoothly for them.

The volunteer stewards had clearly been well briefed and the temporary stands, refreshment, car parking and other facilities were as good as any other ground on the county circuit. The groundstaff also dealt promptly and efficiently with the covering and other work caused by the passing rain.

A full quota of advertising boards and some 250 guests at a lunch for sponsors confirmed Durham's sound financial position. A further, lucrative financial deal is being announced today. It is understood to involve Tyne Tees Television, whose help will cover the costs of signing Dean Jones as Durham's overseas player next year. Overnight the first rain locally for several weeks prevented a prompt start and two stoppages later disrupted Victoria's momentum in mid-innings. Even so they still scored 92 from their last ten overs. Phillips and Ayres made chances half centuries. Not too much to be said, though Durham's bowling was less impressive than their batting. Jones, warmly welcomed by a 2,000 crowd, struck the ball firmly before he miscued an attempted pull against an off-break from Brown.

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Yorkshire have to cut costs

YORKSHIRE's full committee met at Headingley last night faced with the task of cutting £70,000 from the wage bill in anticipation of a £100,000 loss this year (Martin Seary writes).

The full extent of the economic crisis will not be announced until today, the first time in 20 years such important information has been delayed, but Yorkshire will take some heart from the news that Paul Jarvis, aged 26, has decided his future lies with his native county.

Pakistan star their tour of England next summer with a match against Lancashire, Durham and Norfolk's VI at Arundel on May 3. They will play five Test matches and five international matches.

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Cup holders maintain confident mood

Doubt over Parker gives Ferguson selection dilemma

By PETER BALL

MANCHESTER United begin their defence of the European Cup Winners' Cup in Athens on Wednesday without the inspirational services of their captain, Bryan Robson, who is suspended. However Alex Ferguson, their manager, was more concerned yesterday about the possible absence of Paul Parker, their England international, whose hamstring injury makes him doubtful for the game against PAE Atinaikos.

Parker has been one of the outstanding successes in United's fine start to the season, but Ferguson insisted that he would not risk the player if there were doubts about his fitness.

"If you play with a weakened hamstring it can go and then you're talking about six or seven weeks," Ferguson said. "If we aren't 100 per cent sure, we won't risk him."

With only four foreign players allowed in European ties under UEFA rules, Ferguson has bought chiefly English players recently, and Parker's passport was a factor in United's decision to buy him. "What kills you about it," the manager reflected ruefully, "is that three of the players, Hughes, Giggs and Blackmore, are Welshmen and have come up through our youth development programme."

Critics turn on Noades

RON Noades, the Crystal Palace chairman, came under fresh criticism last night over his remarks about black footballers. Noades, who could face a Football Association disrepute charge over alleged racist remarks made on the Channel 4 programme *Great Britain United*, has dismissed his comments were taken out of context.

Now, the programme's production team has responded to the dispute that threatens to split the Selhurst Park club. Gary Crooks, associate producer, Sally Hibbin, the producer, and Sarah Boston, the director, have made public a letter they have sent to Noades.

In it, they state: "You have accused us of misrepresenting your views in our programme. This is a serious attack on our integrity as programme makers, which we have to refute."

They make it clear that Noades was offered a viewing of the controversial programme at the end of July. "You said you only wanted to view those parts of the programme in which you appear and you were shown these at Channel 4. At the end of this viewing, you said you were quite satisfied with the ways in which your interview had been used and wrote to Channel 4 to confirm this."

"We want to make it perfectly clear that no stage have we on Channel 4 described you as 'racist'. The programme does not have any spoken commentary at all."

Football

European Cup First round, first leg Red Star Belgrade v Portland (in Zagreb, Hungary, 7.00)	Cup Winners' Cup First round, first leg Glasgow v Aves (7.00) Hejlskov Split v Tottenham (in Linz, Austria, 6.30) Augsburg v Monaco (7.45)	Barclays League First division Crystal Palace v West Ham (8.00) Sheff Wed v QPR (7.45) Manchester City v Everton (7.45) Sheff Utd v Notts County	Second division Barnsley v Leicester (7.45) Blackburn v Watford (7.45) Bristol City v Millwall (7.45) Cambridge Utd v Wolves (all local) Charlton v Sunderland (7.45) Gillingham v Portsmouth (7.45) Middlesbrough v Tranmere Newcastle v Ipswich (7.45) Preston v Plymouth (7.45) Swindon v Bristol R (7.45)	Third division Birmingham v Chester (8.00) Bournemouth v Shrewsbury (7.45) Brentford v Hull (7.45) Bury v Fulham Exeter v Clacton Leyton Orient v Preston (7.45) Stoke v Hartlepool Torquay v Reading West Bromwich v Peterborough Wigan v Huddersfield	Fourth division Barnet v Southport (7.45) Blackpool v Gillingham Carlisle v Mansfield Chesterfield v Walsall Crewe v Wolverhampton Hull v Cardiff Maidstone v Lincoln (8.00) Rochdale v Rotherham Wrexham v Aldershot	GM Vauxhall Conference Macclesfield v Runcorn Merthyr v Wycombe	Bob Lord Trophy First round, second leg (first leg score in brackets) Slough (1) v Bath (2) Stafford (0) v Northwich (2) Witton (0) v Gateshead (2)
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Final flourish: an elated Scranton celebrates her victory at the last hole at Coquitlam in British Columbia

Britons finish in style

From PATRICIA DAVIES in VANCOUVER

WOMEN'S professional golf has been a bit thin on the ground competitively in Europe this season, but British players continue to thrive across the Atlantic and they have a good chance of winning the 1991 British Ladies Open in Vancouver on Sunday.

It is the fourth, and last, of the women's major championships (leaving aside the claims of the Westbix women's British Open) and featured the Brits in the top three and four in the top ten, perhaps inspired by the fact that they were playing in British Columbia.

Laura Davies, Trish Johnson and Pam Wright shared third place, five shots behind Nancy Scranton, whose win was the first in a seven-year career. Caroline Pierce tied for sixth place, two strokes behind her compatriots, Debbie Massey, twice a winner of the British Open, was second, scuppered by Scranton's hardie, birdie finish.

Scranton, who said her golf improved when she stopped being Nancy Brown earlier this year, after divorcing her husband, broke the course record with a 64, eight under par, in the third round and came home in the fourth round on Sunday. Her total of 279 earned her \$105,000 (£60,500).

Davies, who had a remarkable 62, ten under par, in the Rail Classic two weeks previously, was more conservative in Vancouver, with four rounds of 71.

LEADING FINAL SCORES (US unless stated): 279: N Scranton 72, 64, 68, 279; 280: P Johnson 72, 72, 72, 280; 281: T Johnson 72, 71, 71, 71, 281; 282: P Wright 72, 72, 72, 72, 282; 283: M Davies 72, 72, 72, 72, 283; 284: D Massey 72, 72, 72, 72, 284; 285: C Pierce 72, 72, 72, 72, 285; 286: L Davies 72, 72, 72, 72, 286; 287: P Johnson 72, 72, 72, 72, 287; 288: T Johnson 72, 72, 72, 72, 288; 289: P Wright 72, 72, 72, 72, 289; 290: M Davies 72, 72, 72, 72, 290; 291: D Massey 72, 72, 72, 72, 291; 292: C Pierce 72, 72, 72, 72, 292; 293: L Davies 72, 72, 72, 72, 293; 294: P Johnson 72, 72, 72, 72, 294; 295: T Johnson 72, 72, 72, 72, 295; 296: P Wright 72, 72, 72, 72, 296; 297: M Davies 72, 72, 72, 72, 297; 298: D Massey 72, 72, 72, 72, 298; 299: C Pierce 72, 72, 72, 72, 299; 300: L Davies 72, 72, 72, 72, 300.

Montgomerie holes in one to earn share of the lead

By MEL WEBB

COLIN Montgomerie continued a gradual yet unrelenting warm-up for the Ryder Cup match in South Carolina next week by claiming the small glory of a hole in one in the first round of the Equiway and Law Challenge yesterday. Just like the other couple of points on the revised Stableford format of this tournament, in which players get a point for each birdie and two for an eagle.

Montgomerie's total of seven put him level with Anders Forsbrand, Mark Davis, Darren Clarke and Barry Lane at the head of the leaderboard.

If Montgomerie does not play well in his first appearance in the Ryder Cup, it will not be for the want of practice.

He played in the Lancome Trophy, which ended on Sunday, and after the Equiway and Law, he is off to appear in the Epson Grand Prix pro-am tomorrow night, he hopes, another four rounds in the tournament proper.

Flanagan departs abruptly

FRIDAY the thirteenth, 1991, will be a day Joe Flanagan remembers for the rest of his life. It was the day he walked into his office to receive a curt letter telling him that his services were no longer required by the Women's Professional Golfers' European Tour (Patricia Davies writes).

Without any preamble, the letter signed by Janice Arnold, the WPGA chairman, informed Flanagan, in his fourth season as executive director, that his contract with the company was terminated.

Yesterday, Flanagan, who was due to leave at the end of November after helping Andrea Doyle, his successor, settle in, was more hurt than angry when he said, "It was a totally insensitive letter and I would have thought I would have been given some warning. It was thoughtful, it was not a letter I would send to anyone leaving the tour."

The official press release eventually issued on the affair said that Flanagan "formally left his position on September 13, 1991", which was not Flanagan's interpretation of the situation.

The release quoted Arnold as saying: "Both the board and Mrs Doyle felt that in the short time she has been with us she has been able to gain a sufficient grasp of our affairs to take over the running of our tour and to allow Mr Flanagan to retire a few weeks earlier than anticipated."

Doyle, by all accounts a formidable businesswoman, is formidable indeed if, with no golfing background to speak of, she is *au fait* with the tour and its needs in less than two weeks. She and Flanagan have spoken, but, according to the Irishman, he never got to meet. He said he did not even know what she looked like.

The tour, down to 16 events (they are, however, worth over £1,600,000) at a time when every professional sport is experiencing severe difficulties, certainly has its problems. Public relations and common courtesy apparently do not feature on the list of priorities.

South coast base for Whitbread race

By BARRY PICKTHALL

SOUTHAMPTON is to host the start and finish of the 1993-94 Whitbread Round the World Race. The city council announced yesterday that it is to inject £20,000 into the event and provide extra facilities for the yachts on the waterfront.

The crews will start at Ocean Village and finish at the newly-developed Town Quay, which will also host a festival when the yachts from the 32,000 mile classic arrive, before the race, which has attracted 67 syndicates from 25 countries to register entries, will take the fleet to Punta del Este, Uruguay, through the Roaring Forties to Fremantle, Australia, and then Auckland, New Zealand, before rounding Cape Horn and returning via Punta del Este and Fort Lauderdale, in Florida.

Ian Bailey-Williams, the race director, is confident of a record entry in excess of 30 yachts. The entries include Pierre Fehlmann, a former winner, and four all-women teams keen to emulate the last year's success.

□ The challengers in next year's America's Cup have won a powerful ally in the New York Yacht Club in their fight with the San Diego Yacht Club over the date by which challengers must register their yachts. Victor Romagosa, a former member of the New York YC's America's Cup committee, said of San Diego's insistence that yachts must be in the California port by December 20: "I don't know anybody attached to the old precepts and rules who approve of what they are doing out there."

With the challenger trials not commencing until the end of January, Paul Cayard, skipper of Raul Gardini's Italian entry Il Moro di Venezia insists the matter should be left to Ken MacAlpine, the official referee, to say when he wants to see the boats which, according to sources is ten days before racing.

□ The six-netre world championship got off to a dramatic start in Torbay yesterday, when two yachts were dismantled and a third lost its rudder. One of the casualties was Kiro, skippered by Lawrence Smith, which was lying second when a cap-shroud pulled out.

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RESULTS: First race, 1. Battered (J. Prentice), 2. Woodoo (R. Entenman), 3. Kiro (L. Smith), 4. Kiro (L. Smith), 5. Kiro (L. Smith), 6. Kiro (L. Smith), 7. Kiro (L. Smith), 8. Kiro (L. Smith), 9. Kiro (L. Smith), 10. Kiro (L. Smith), 11. Kiro (L. Smith), 12. Kiro (L. Smith), 13. Kiro (L. Smith), 14. Kiro (L. Smith), 15. Kiro (L. Smith), 16. Kiro (L. Smith), 17. Kiro (L. Smith), 18. Kiro (L. Smith), 19. Kiro (L. Smith), 20. Kiro (L. Smith), 21. Kiro (L. Smith), 22. Kiro (L. Smith), 23. Kiro (L. Smith), 24. Kiro (L. Smith), 25. Kiro (L. Smith), 26. Kiro (L. Smith), 27. Kiro (L. Smith), 28. Kiro (L. Smith), 29. Kiro (L. Smith), 30. Kiro (L. Smith), 31. Kiro (L. Smith), 32. Kiro (L. Smith).

Callers cost 36p per min cheap rate, 48p per min other times inc VAT

YACHTING

South coast base for Whitbread race

By BARRY PICKTHALL

SOUTHAMPTON is to host the start and finish of the 1993-94 Whitbread Round the World Race. The city council announced yesterday that it is to inject £20,000 into the event and provide extra facilities for the yachts on the waterfront.

The crews will start at Ocean Village and finish at the newly-developed Town Quay, which will also host a festival when the yachts from the 32,000 mile classic arrive, before the race, which has attracted 67 syndicates from 25 countries to register entries, will take the fleet to Punta del Este, Uruguay, through the Roaring Forties to Fremantle, Australia, and then Auckland, New Zealand, before rounding Cape Horn and returning via Punta del Este and Fort Lauderdale, in Florida.

Ian Bailey-Williams, the race director, is confident of a record entry in excess of 30 yachts. The entries include Pierre Fehlmann, a former winner, and four all-women teams keen to emulate the last year's success.

□ The challengers in next year's America's Cup have won a powerful ally in the New York Yacht Club in their fight with the San Diego Yacht Club over the date by which challengers must register their yachts. Victor Romagosa, a former member of the New York YC's America's Cup committee, said of San Diego's insistence that yachts must be in the California port by December 20: "I don't know anybody attached to the old precepts and rules who approve of what they are doing out there."

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FOR THE RECORD

AMERICAN FOOTBALL NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE (NFL) - Cleveland 14, Cincinnati 12, Washington 30, Pittsburgh 20, Baltimore 20, New York Jets 20, New York Giants 20, San Francisco 20, Los Angeles Rams 20, Dallas Cowboys 20, Houston Oilers 20, Indianapolis Colts 20, Denver Broncos 20, Kansas City Chiefs 20, Miami Dolphins 20, New England Patriots 20, Buffalo Bills 20, Minnesota Vikings 20, St Louis Cardinals 20, Chicago Bears 20, Green Bay Packers 20, Detroit Lions 20, Philadelphia Eagles 20, New Orleans Saints 20, Tampa Bay Buccaneers 20, Jacksonville Jaguars 20, Atlanta Falcons 20, Carolina Panthers 20, Seattle Seahawks 20, San Diego Chargers 20, Oakland Raiders 20, Cincinnati Bengals 20, Cleveland Browns 20, Pittsburgh Steelers 20, Houston Oilers 20, Indianapolis Colts 20, Denver Broncos 20, Kansas City Chiefs 20, Miami Dolphins 20, New England Patriots 20, Buffalo Bills 20, Minnesota Vikings 20, St Louis Cardinals 20, Chicago Bears 20, Green Bay Packers 20, Detroit Lions 20, 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